



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 2, 2025

Presentation of the Lord

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

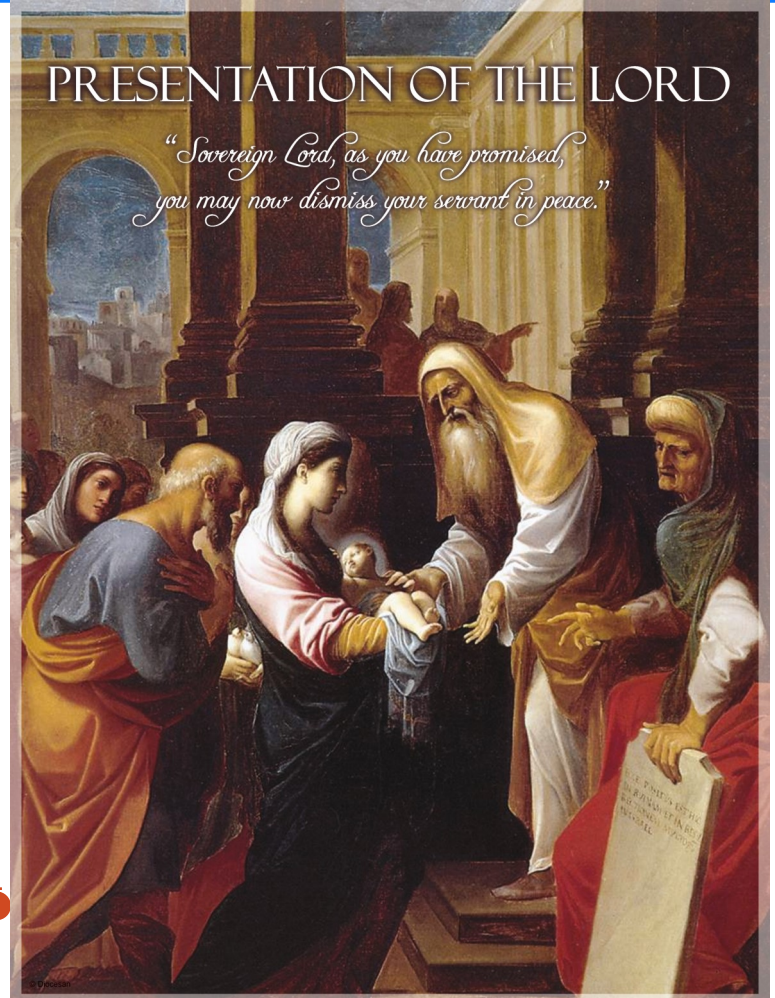
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

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

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.

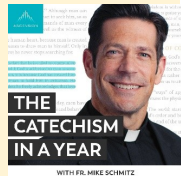
Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

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.

Adult Education Opportunities

Catechism in a Year:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>



Bible in a Year:

In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

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

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

In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

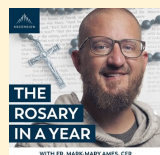
[https://ascensionpress.com/](https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration)

[pages/biy-espanol-registration](https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration)



Rosary in a Year:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending January 19, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$18,338	\$29,075	(\$10,737)
YTD	\$769,743	\$789,581	(\$19,838)
Needs	\$1,555	\$1,775	(\$220)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 19, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,921
Holy Day	\$656

Holy Cross Parishioners:

Tax Statement for the 2024 have been emailed out to any parishioner we had email addresses for. If you did not receive it and want a tax statement, please call the Parish Office to leave your name, email address or physical address. You can also email Sharon Seelig at sseelig@holycrossdover.org

ICC Parishioners please all our ICC office if you wish a tax statement.

Dear Parishioners,

A few years back, I wrote a column at the end of Catholic Schools' Week. It encapsulated not just the significance of the presence of Catholic education but of its inherent importance. I thought, with the success of our Holy Cross School, the anticipation of the independent Holy Cross High School, and the presence and activity of our many Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wilmington, that it would be a good time to revisit that column (with some minor modifications). To wit:

I write this week's column in the wake of the conclusion of the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week (January 26-February 2). Catholic Schools Week is a time set aside to highlight not just Catholic education (which is learned in the home, in parish religious education programs, and in Catholic schools) but even more so to highlight that all-important Catholic School setting.

A Foreign Legion. In St. Mark's Gospel (5:15,18-20), there is a wonderful passage that shows us Christ making the world a better place by getting rid of evil spirits in a possessed man. Jesus confronts the evil spirit in the man and asks it for its name. The famous response is, "*Legion is my name, for we are many.*" Once he identifies the evil spirit, Jesus then banishes it from the man and restores him to health. The passage then continues, with the people around the scene of this cleansing coming forward:

"As they approached Jesus, they caught sight of the man who had been possessed by Legion, sitting there clothed and in his right mind. And they were seized with fear... As [Jesus] was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed pleaded to remain with him. But He would not permit him but told him instead, "Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you." Then the man went off and began to proclaim in the Decapolis what Jesus had done for him, and all were amazed."

Good News on the Way. To emphasize the words of Jesus in that passage, He said: "*Go home to your family and announce to them all that the Lord in his pity has done for you.*" In short, he was telling the man to make the Good News, the Gospel truth, and the Lord's presence known.

Catholic Education in General. Today, in Catholic education -- in our Catholic Schools and our parish religious education programs -- our students are being prepared and being asked to do what the man in the Gospel story was asked to do: Spread the Good News. Let people know about the joy of a life of faith in Christ. It is a duty and call that each one of us will carry out in a different manner, but for the same purpose: Making Jesus Christ known to a world that is hungry -- indeed starving -- to know more about salvation and hope.

Catholic Education in a Catholic School. The most wonderful thing about Catholic education -- is that, unlike secular education, a student is allowed to look at the world in its fullness. That is, a student doesn't just look at the world as something to study but rather is able to look at the world and its people and see the hand of God at work. In a public or private school setting, much is done -- often very well -- to teach students much information and help them answer questions regarding "who, what, where, when, and how." For instance, looking at the world or the universe, these schools teach students what planets are, how a moon revolves, where different galaxies are found, and even how a star may go supernova. Yes, they teach about who, what, when, where, and even how -- about all kinds of things.

The Reason "Why". What is different in Catholic education is the presence of another pivotal question that is implicitly part of every subject area -- the question of "Why?" Exploring the question of "Why?" allows everything else that is to become more than a collection of facts. It's great to know what something is, when it came to be, where it can be found, and how it works -- but the key questions that we yearn to have answered are those regarding the matter of "Why?"

- Why are we here?
- Why did God create me?
- Why are there planets?
- Why are there stars?
- What is the purpose of this vast universe?
- Why do people get born?
- Why do people die?

But, Why? As relates to academic curriculum, the question often asked by students in whatever educational setting they are in, is this: "Why do I have to study all of these subjects like reading, math, science, etc.? Catholic education helps to answer that question. A student in a Catholic school, just as in any school, studies these subjects. However, from a Christian perspective, a student is not studying these subjects just for the sake of memorizing facts and passing a test. From a Christian perspective, that student is learning all of these subjects in order to know God, His creation, and His good works better. More specifically, though a Catholic school student studies history, science, math, literature, etc., that student studies it with an implicit focus on seeing God's presence, his fingerprints, in these subjects.

Getting Answers. As a student grows in age and wisdom, the knowledge received via his Catholic education enables that student to better understand the answer to all of those "Why?" questions. More specifically, in a Catholic School classroom, where students are educated in various academic subjects (and taught the "who, what, where, when, and how" of things), a student is also able to focus on the place of God in all these things, which helps to answer those questions of

(Continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. John Enemuor	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

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
Sharon Seelig	Records Office, ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I18
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

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

5TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (FEB 9)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 6:1-2A, 3-8

God is revealed to Isaiah in an awesome vision of the divine presence in the Temple.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Paul is also aware of his own unworthiness as a former persecutor of Christians and of the weakness of faith among some of the Corinthians.

GOSPEL: LUKE 5:1-11

Jesus calls Peter, James and John to be his disciples. Peter fears that his sins make him unworthy and he's right—he will fail repeatedly. But God calls the weak to make them strong and Peter will become the Rock despite his failings.

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is in need of the following items:

Cereal, oatmeal, one pound bags of white rice, peanut butter and jelly, brownie mix, hamburger helper, Manwich, and Progresso or Campell's chunky soups. Any donations you can make can be left in the Samaritan drop off near the Rectory or in the boxes as you enter the church. Thank you for your kind consideration and donations.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of May 2-4, 2025. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with grief and loss from abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Bernardo-Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by April 18.

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

The new independent Holy Cross High School will be opening in Dover this Fall! Applications are now being accepted for both Freshman and Sophomore classes. There will be an information session for prospective families on Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30 PM at the Clayton Fire Hall.

COLUMBIETTES

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be hosting a Basket Auction on March 2 from 1:30-4:30 pm at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 371 E. Main St. in Middletown.

Cost is \$30 which includes lunch choice of either Salmon or Chicken Cordon Bleu - 50/50 and basket raffle tickets will be on sale to purchase. Proceeds help the many charitable organizations the Columbiettes support. Please RSVP with lunch choice and check no later than Feb. 13 to Arlene Brown, 87 Paige Pl, Felton, DE 19943 - mail amb550@hotmail.com.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all married couples in the Diocese of Wilmington to the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on World Marriage Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 1:00pm at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Those celebrating significant anniversaries (5-year increments) - 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or any anniversary beyond 50, will receive a special certificate from the Bishop. Reservations are needed, no matter what the anniversary year. Reservations are required by February 4, 2025.

Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass. Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing OMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – <https://cdowcym.wufoo.com/forms/zdx6q1g0hx3j5m/>

PURSE BINGO:

Please join us Saturday, March 22 for a fun evening of bingo. Tickets are \$40 each - tables of 8 - and may be purchased from ldarling@holycrossover.org or in the Parish Office or contacting Linda Darling at extension 123. Basket raffles and 50/50 tickets, as well as beer and wine, will be available for purchase. Proceeds help our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp in Richmond, VA this June. Don't wait - tickets go fast!!!



RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families who have recently lost a loved one:

- Juana Sparks
- Nancy Penfield
- Constance C. Shepens
- Bryan Tevlin MacDonough
- Mary Beth Noble
- Patricia Emerling

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest members

- Ethan Forest Akinshilo-Stout
- Lacy Liliana Xialise

MASS INTENTION FEBRUARY

3 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Frank & Catherine Forti

4 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Insao Family

5 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:am Deighton Family (LI)

6 THURSDAY

HC 8:0 am Belt Family (LI)
IC 6:00 pm No Mass this week

7 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Cutrona Family (LI)

8 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Lynne Brownawell
HC 5:00 pm Dr. Charles Allen

9 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Floyd & Barbara Massey
ICC 8:30 am Constance Schepens
HC 9:30 am Paul Louis Novello, Jr.
ICC 11:00 am Constance Schepens
HC 11:30 am For the People
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Feb. 2 –8 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the living intentions of Joe & Marguerite Casey.

Feb 2 –8 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of Florence Fagbohoun.

SAMARITANS

Our Samaritans are still looking for individuals to help take our hot line calls. If interested, please all the HC Parish Office to leave your name and phone number. We can then have someone call you to explain the process to see if you would like to help. Thank you.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, hear an interview with popular speaker, podcaster and writer, Sister Josephine Garrett, CSFN, about her new book, "Wilderness Within: A Guided Lent Journal for Prayer and Meditation." The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/ DioceseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

FEBRUARY 8/9, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

S. Garger
C. Helwig

D. MacLeish
M. MacLeish

J. Cutrona

LECTORS

M. Phillips

7:30 AM

J. Denney
A. Wyllie

S. Gede
P. Jackson

B. Gyamfi
E. Gyamfi

LECTORS

K. Meire

9:30 AM

S. Cordie
D. Martinez

G. Hanlin
V. Pepper

J. Beugr
C. Beugre

LECTORS

T. Baurys
. Petka

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez
E. Pstoriza

M. Richard

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

A. Smith

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM

J. Carrow

LECTORS

L. Schlaupitz

If you would like to be a part of our ministry team as an altar server, lector, or extra-ordinary minister of Holy Communion, please contact the parish office. We would love to have more volunteers.

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 14 - 16, 2025 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.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Adorers needed! We are slowly filling our hours. All hours are open for Adoration and would like to have at least two people per hour. Do you have an hour a week to spend with our Lord in the Adoration Chapel? We are so blessed at Holy Cross to have the ability to spend time with Christ in the Eucharist. We should never leave our Lord alone...Most Saints spent an hour or hours a day in Adoration. Please consider your time. An hour a week. Is this too much? For more information, call, text or email John Murphy for a time convenient for you. 302-233-1779, jkm2015@verizon.net

QUOTE: "Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on Earth." (Mother St Teresa of Calcutta)

"The only time our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night He went into agony. Not for activity did he plead, but for an hour of companionship." (Venerable Fulton J. Sheen)

SUNDAY

7 am, 4 pm, 5 pm

TUESDAY

5 pm

THURSDAY

9 am

FRIDAY

6 am, 2 pm

SATURDAY

5 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm,
1 pm, 2 pm, 8 pm

FAITH BUILD WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Holy Cross will be participating in the 2025 Faith Build with Habitat for Humanity. This opportunity is coming and if anyone would like to donate to the home, please send your donation to Holy Cross and please include "Holy Cross" on the memo?

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE AT HOLY CROSS

LADIES: Would you like to give a gift of prayer for our Priest, specifically Fr. John Enoumu? We are still in need of additional sisters to give:

One Holy Hour One Day a Week
One Priest One Heart of Prayer

MEN are welcome and encouraged to join this ministry as substitutes.

PICK UP A PAMPHLET IN THE GATHERING SPACE AND contact: Delizabeth Diaz-Martinez -- email: 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

- **Agradecimiento:** Nuestro agradecimiento a nuestra Junta Directiva actual que ha trabajado arduamente para servir a Dios a la iglesia y a nuestra comunidad su término como Junta Directiva ya pronto llegara a su fin y se acerca el tiempo para elegir otra Junta.
- **Nominaciones :** ,Se les pide que oren, vean y recomienda personas para servir en la nueva Junta Directiva 2025 – 2027. Necesitamos personas que se comprometan y que tengan la voluntad de trabajar y de servir,
- **Foro Cristiano:** Foro Cristiano “Santos y Camino a la Santidad” todos los viernes, de 6-8 de la noche, en el ELC. Salón Mateo/Marcos. Quedan todos cordialmente invitados.
- **Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria:** Hoy celebraremos la Fiesta de la Candelaria. Quedan todos invitados al salón de eventos en procesión para compartir la tamalada después de la misa. La Candelaria es una fiesta popular celebrada por los católicos, que celebra la Presentación de Jesús en el Templo, la Purificación de la Virgen después del parto y la Virgen de la Candelaria, advocación mariana aparecida en Tenerife (Islas Canarias) en el siglo XV. Tiene lugar el 2 de febrero. Generalmente se pasa al primer fin de semana de febrero. - se festeja exactamente 40 días después de Navidad -es decir, el 2 de febrero- y debido a que, en ese día, la Virgen se purificó después del nacimiento del niño Dios y llevó candelas a la Iglesia para que estas fueran bendecidas. Este era el festejo original, sin embargo, en la época del Virreinato llegó a México y Latinoamérica y el día de la Candelaria coincidió con la temporada de siembra que iniciaba el 2 de febrero y se festejaba con exquisitos tamales como platillo principal.
- **Voluntarios:** Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118
- **Peregrinos de Esperanza:** “El Año del Jubileo 2025 y el tema escogido por el Santo Padre es “Peregrinos de Esperanza ¿Qué es un jubileo? “Jubileo” es el nombre que se da a un año establecido como tiempo especial para renovar una bien fundamentada relación con Dios, con el pEl Jubileo se abre para que a todos les sea dada la esperanza, la esperanza del Evangelio, la esperanza del amor, la esperanza del perdón para con el prójimo y con toda la creación. La puerta de la esperanza se ha abierto de par en par al mundo "Hay esperanza para cada uno de nosotros. Pero no olviden, hermanas y hermanos, que Dios lo perdona todo, Dios perdona siempre. No lo olviden. Y esa es una manera de entender la esperanza en el Señor". El Papa Francisco volvió a reiterar este punto fundamental de su Pontificado durante la santa misa de Nochebuena este martes 24 de diciembre de 2024, tras haber abierto la Puerta Santa en la Basílica de San Pedro e inaugurado el Jubileo Ordinario de 2025”. De la homilía de Nochebuena del papa Francisco. Somos Iglesia, Somos parroquia, somos comunidad, somos familia en camino al jubileo. Como comunidad oremos y seamos peregrinos de esperanza para el prójimo.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Sacramentos:

Primera Comunión:

Sacramento: El sacramento de la Primera Comunión se están preparando para recibir a Jesús los martes.

Confirmación 2025: Mount 2000 7-9 de febrero. Les pedimos sus oraciones por todos los jóvenes adolescentes que estarán de retiro.

Sesión # 5 domingo 23 de febrero de 3-5:30 en el salón parroquial.

El 4 de febrero Reunión de catequista a las 7 PM en el salón.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Next class 2/9/25

Please arrive between 2:45-2:55 to be on time and not disrupt classes. Bring textbook, snack and a pencil. Kindergarteners bring bookbag, crayons, safety scissors, glue sticks and textbook.

Grades K-7 in the Elementary Building, drop off at double doors near school office. Pick up, parents walk through those same doors, pick up child(ren) and exit doors past bathroom. Second Floor students will be sent down to siblings on the first floor for easier pick up.

Grade 8 in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office Building C, second floor, students with siblings at the elementary building will be walked over to elementary building for pick up.

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith)

Next class Feb. 9, 2025 Is your family interested in either starting or continuing their life-long faith journey together? Would you as parents like to be active participants in the faith formation of your children? Deacon Vince Pisano has the perfect Religious Education program for you and your family! This program engages the family, whether it be parents with K-8 children, or a family who wants to enter the Catholic church and receive the sacraments of initiation together hand in hand. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences.

Deacon Bob's Adult Education – Class scheduled to be on February 4! “The Wild Goose Series” “This series is an invitation for Catholics to make a more profound, life-giving relationship with the Holy Spirit.” “The gift of the Holy Spirit is not merely something reserved for Confirmation. The Spirit desires a relationship with us that will take us on the greatest adventure imaginable: a journey to the very heart of God. The Holy Spirit desires to be present to us in a manner that brings light out of darkness, freedom out of bondage, order out of chaos and life out of death. Come Holy Spirit!” Meet in the MT/MK room of the ELC at either 9 am or 7 pm. This is a free class/ handouts will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122 for Tammy.

YOUTH MINISTRY CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Next class will be Sunday, Feb 2 from 3-5 pm - this class will take place in the Matthew Mark

Room—and Wednesday, Feb 5 from 6-7:30 pm.

KERYGMA CLASS:

Next class will take place on Wed. Feb 12 from 6-7:30 pm.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

You might have noticed that the Gospel readings have been primarily from Luke the past few Sundays.



The Church has entered into liturgical year C where we will continue to hear from St. Luke for the rest of the year!

God wants to meet you in the Mass through the readings. He wants to speak to your heart. When you know the context and significance of the Gospel readings before getting to Mass, you are ready to listen to what Jesus is telling you.

With Luke in 50 Days, you can press play and listen to Fr. Mike Schmitz read you a section of the Gospel of Luke. Jeff Cavins and Scott Powell will be there to discuss the parables, the teachings of Jesus, and show you the connection between the Gospel and the Old Testament.

Use this link to start your journey now!
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/luke-in-50-days-announcement>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

ICC Religious Education:

Sacraments:

First Communion: Parent Meeting, Sunday, January 26th @ 2:30pm in Parish Hall
Parents for first Communion, must attend one of these meetings.

Session #1: Tuesday, January 28th 6:30-7:30 in Parish Hall

Confirmation Preparation: Mount 2000-February 7-9th

Session #5, Sunday, February 23rd at 3pm-5:30 in the Parish hall.

Dear Parishioners,

This past week, we joyfully celebrated Catholic Schools Week- a time to unite as students, families, faculty, staff, and our community to reflect on the tremendous blessings of Catholic education.

The mission of Holy Cross School is to “provide its students with an academically rich, faith-filled learning environment in the interest of fostering an education rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At Holy Cross, we cultivate a life-long sense of justice, peace, compassion, and respect for all God’s creation.” We are deeply grateful for the privilege of placing our faith at the center of everything we do. Catholic Schools Week allowed us to embrace our faith, share Christ’s love, and renew our commitment to the Gospel with our families, peers, and parish.

We began the week with a beautiful Mass, during which students invited someone special to join them. Over 150 guests celebrated with us, filling the church with love and joy. After Mass, our guests enjoyed coffee, cookies decorated by our students, and a prayer card to take home as a reminder of our shared faith.

Later in the day, students participated in a special sock drive, donating pairs of socks to a local shelter while wearing fun socks to school. They also created thoughtful cards for our parish staff, expressing gratitude for their constant support and partnership.

On Tuesday, we celebrated our incredible teachers, whose dedication and faith inspire our students every day. Thanks to the generosity of our Home and School Association (HSA), teachers enjoyed a coffee and treat truck, as well as raffles and games throughout the day. At the end of the day, teachers spent time with their students playing games or watching a movie. We are so thankful for our HSA and our wonderful educators!

Wednesday was a day of prayer and gratitude for our nation and the families who support our Catholic school. The day began with a special prayer service over the intercom, led by students from military families. This meaningful moment reminded us of the sacrifices made by so many to protect our freedoms.

Throughout the day, teachers incorporated lessons focused on our nation, and students wrote heartfelt letters to their families, expressing their gratitude for the gift of a Catholic education.

On Thursday, we celebrated the gift of vocations. The day began with a breakfast for our priests, deacons, and altar servers, providing an opportunity for fellowship and fun. Our altar servers enjoyed a trivia game about the saints, and our 8th-grade students gave classroom presentations on vocations, inspiring younger students to reflect on God’s call in their own lives.

Throughout the day, priests and deacons visited classrooms, answered questions, and even shared lunch with the children. It was a joyful reminder of the many ways God calls us to serve.

We ended the week by celebrating our amazing students! The day was filled with fun, including a dress-down day, ice cream at lunch, an exciting 8th-grade versus faculty volleyball game, and a visit from a magician. It was a wonderful way to show our students how much they are appreciated and loved.

Catholic Schools Week was a beautiful opportunity to come together as a community of faith and celebrate what makes Holy Cross such a special place to learn and grow. We are grateful for the blessings of Catholic education and look forward to all that February has in store.

God bless,
Mrs. O’Mara

“Why?”.

Faith Answers. Thus, if a student is educated from this faith perspective, then one day, when that student grows up and becomes a doctor, and someone asks, “Why did you become a doctor?” that doctor — formed by his Catholic education— won’t say “Because I want to make money” but rather, “Because I want to help sick people.” Or, more pointedly, whether stated implicitly or explicitly, “Because I want to do the work of Jesus Christ in the world helping people.”

Working on Commission. When Christ gave his Apostle that great commission to “Go, teach all nations” and “[Teach] them to observe all that I have commanded you,” those were actually the last words Christ spoke to any of his followers on earth. Soon after making that proclamation, he had his Ascension into heaven. He, by these last words on earth, commissioned his Apostles, our first Bishops, to serve the will of God and to take the Gospel to every corner of the world. And they did. They, of course, received help from the faithful people of the day to accomplish their task. And they all knew the reason “why” — to fulfill Christ’s great commission: Go, teach all nations!

Faith Hill. Our Bishops and our Church today need the faithful -- whether one is a student in Catholic school or in a religious education program or is a centenarian sitting in the pews -- to spread the truth of Jesus Christ. We need the faithful to climb up on that hill of faith and evangelize. We need them to spread the Gospel and make known the good news of Jesus Christ. We need to help people in our world today to come to know the answer to the question of “Why?”.

Extra! Extra! As mentioned, this past week was Catholic Schools Week, a week in which we celebrated the joy and power of Catholic education, especially in our Schools. It is a time when we celebrate our students learning those same subjects that students in all schools have to learn. But in addition to that basic educational core, we also celebrate that our students get something extra, something more. You see, in the Catholic educational setting, they are also learning to understand the purpose of their life and the truth that they have a place in God’s plan. This is the same reason that Christ taught his Apostles so that they would have that purpose-driven life and could, thus, bring the joy of God into the world -- to a people needing to hear Christ’s saving message, to know that God created them, and the world around them.

Going to the City. The Gospel of St. Mark that I began this column with related to us that God, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, got rid of evil spirits and some devilish troubles. He did it by the healing of a possessed man, a troubled man. It then says that the man who responded to Jesus Christ’s presence in his life “*went off and began to proclaim in the Decapolis [the city] what Jesus had done for him.*”

This helps us to put into context “why” we have Catholic education and why we teach our students to see the presence of God in their lives. We do it so that they:

- learn that what Jesus Christ said and did,
- learn the truth of God,
- know what God has revealed to us, and
- grow in age and wisdom and bring that Good News to their Decapolis, to their town, to their city, to their state, and indeed, to the whole world.

A Creative Answer. It should also be noted that a good Catholic education also helps answer that primordial question asked by toddlers, kids, and adults throughout the ages: “Why did God create me?” Spoiler alert! The answer, which I learned years ago as a child in Catholic school, is this: He created me to know him, love him, and serve him in this world so as to be happy with him in the next... that’s why!

Mission Territory. In that regard, and as an aside, many Catholic schools tinker with crafting a clever mission statement to explain why they do what they do. Spoiler alert: Christ already gave our Catholic schools the only mission statement they need: “*Go, teach all nations... [teach] them to observe all that I have commanded you.*”

This past week was Catholic Schools Week, and during it, we celebrated and took pride in the faith that built our Catholic schools across the country and around the world. Catholic education serves to teach our young people – and indeed all people -- the answers to the questions that, without God, one could never answer. Catholic education helps us to answer the question, “Why?” Catholic Schools Week celebrates that what is imparted in a Catholic education is important not just to a student’s mind but to that student’s heart and soul. God bless our Catholic Schools.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor