

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 4, 2024

5th Sunday Ordinary Time

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



5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.
They immediately told him about her.
He approached, grasped her hand,
and helped her up.

MTK 1:30-31



HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

*The seven Sacraments of the Church
were instituted by Christ to confer grace.*

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our


parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

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

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

Make Plans Now to Attend on February 24 in the Parish Hall:



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 January 22, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$23,077	\$28,840	(\$5,763)
YTD	\$803,349	\$813,820	(\$10,471))
Needs	\$1,475	\$1,712	(\$237)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 22, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,568
Second Collection	\$1,045

TAX STATEMENTS

The **HC Parish Office** is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2023 year. If we have your email in our records, this information will be emailed to you at the end of January. If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org. Thank you.

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

Dear Parishioners,

Okay, a brief dive into TV Land. Back in the 1960s, for three seasons, there was a television series titled, "The Patty Duke Show." The show starred... well, of course, Patty Duke. But this sitcom had a novel element embedded into its premise: The main characters were two look-alike cousins, Patty and Cathy Lane, who were both played by the same actress (i.e., Patty Duke). One cousin Cathy was refined, stylish (as the theme song said, "*Cathy adores the minuet, ballet russes and crepe suzettes*"). The other cousin was raucous and wild (as the theme song said "*Patty's into rock'n'roll, the 'hot dog' [a dance] makes her lose control*"). What a wild duet!

Put Up Your Dukes. In any event, these two cousins who looked alike, walked alike and — at times — even talked alike, set up some crazy situations. But, the truth is that two cousins were portrayed by the same person, one person, the actress Patty Duke. Two characters were played by one actress. As in TV Land, here in the Catholic Church, we have a similar situation, where we have two saints who are very likely one person.

Meanwhile in February. St. Valentine was a Christian martyr of second century, who probably would die all over again if he ever saw what they did to his holy day. St. Valentine's feast day is celebrated around the world on February 14. And through some twisted history, has become a day associated with romance, and in the more recent era, with prurient behaviors. Now, the truth is that St. Valentine's Day as it is observed in today's world has about as much to do with the actual St. Valentine as the unicorns and leprechauns of St. Patrick's Day have to do with the actual St. Patrick.

Patty, Cathy and St. Valentine. So, who was St. Valentine? Well, much like the one actress (Patty Duke) playing two connected characters (Patty and Cathy Lane), the identity of the one St. Valentine has, over history, often been broken down, erroneously, into two different St. Valentine's. Now, unlike Patty and Cathy, these two Valentine's had a lot in common, and are very, very, very likely the same person.

St. Valentine of Terni. There was a man named Valentinus (whose name comes from the Latin word "*valens*" which mean "good health"). The anglicized version of his name is known as Valentine. This man Valentine, who was born in 175, in Terni, Italy, became identified in saintly circles as St. Valentine of Terni. For you travel buffs, Terni is a city in Umbria (central Italy, part of the then-Roman Empire); it is located between Assisi and Rome. In due time, Valentine was ordained a priest and then around the year 197, was consecrated as Bishop of Terni, Italy (he was ordained as Bishop by Pope Victor I).

Annoying the Authorities. Both as a Priest, but even more so as a Bishop, St. Valentine preached the Gospel, and the teachings of Jesus Christ, much to the annoyance of the Roman authorities, who held that Christianity was illegal. It is claimed in some sources that St. Valentine was a miracle worker and a healer, who was much loved by his flock in and around Terni.

Was Blind, but Now I See. One story regarding the St. Valentine, in terms of miraculous cures, tell that he was summoned to Rome to cure the blind daughter of a leading Roman official named Austerius. The child had been born blind and had lived her young life blind. St. Valentine prayed that Christ would illuminate the house with the true light — and the child was cured of her blindness. Following this miraculous cure, the Roman official and his whole family converted to Christianity, along with several observers at the scene. According to tradition, St. Valentine left a note to comfort the girl as she adjusted to being able to see... it would be the first note she could read... and it was signed, "From your Valentine."

Enter the "Madman." As noted, the Roman authorities did not have much tolerance for Christianity, and so, like many Bishops of the early Church, St. Valentine of Terni was arrested and imprisoned. Invited to recant his faith, he did not. Thus, the Roman prefect Placid Furius (whose Latin name translates to "the calm madman") had St. Valentine of Terni tortured. After a sufficient period of torture, Placid Furius had St. Valentine beheaded.

Night Shift. Of note, St. Valentine of Terni's death at the hands of Roman authorities, was done under cover of the night, and not much attention was brought to it. Why? Because, it is said that St. Valentine of Terni was so beloved by his people that the Roman authorities feared an uprising of the people and rioting. His execution, on February 14, 269, occurred along the Via Flaminia (a roadway built under the leadership of Gaius Flaminius) by the Flaminian Gates, just outside of Rome. His remains were later taken and placed in the Church of St. Praxedes.

St. Valentine of Rome. But then there is another St. Valentine... St. Valentine of Rome. This St. Valentine, also born around 175, was also ordained a priest, serving in around Rome. Some source site him as a Bishop, too. This Valentine, too, preached the Gospel and got himself into a spot of bother with the Roman authorities.

The Wedding Planner. One of St. Valentine of

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Brennan Ferris	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
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

NO MASS

Please Note there will be no morning Mass on February 6, 7, or 8. All Diocesan Priests will be away on retreat.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered parish-ioners:

- Kathleen and Joseph Labash

MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

We are trying to start a new group that would meet one time a month on a Saturday morning called Mom and Baby. The meeting would be in the Early Learning Center Building, second floor. More details will be given in upcoming bulletins. Stay tuned!!!

VOCATIONS

What is so special about the Priesthood?

The answer is the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist! Through it the priest offers the most sublime of sacrifices, that of God the Son to God the Father, applying the merits of Calvary to our lives today.

If you know of someone interested in religious life, please have them talk to one of the clergy of the parish.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, February 10th, learn about Retrouvaille, a program to heal marriages, when Deacon Craig and Judy Bickel are the guests

6TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (FEB 11)

FIRST READING: LEVITICUS 13:1-2, 44-46

There are always people who are excluded but Christ is the great uniter.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31—11:1

There is no action too trivial to offer to the glory of God.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:40-45

The harshness of the law excluding lepers prepares the way for the mercy of Christ.

BABIES NEED US!

Is God calling your heart to stand in the gap for mothers and their babies to save a life from abortion? Women are under a lot of pressure to receive abortion, often being told it's their "only and best option." This simply is a lie! Delaware has many life affirming options which can help save the baby's life and help the mother too.

Abortion destroys the hearts of a mother and father, as well as the life of the child in the womb.

Contact Donna at 862-266-1099 or email: dlattereri86@gmail.com to learn more and volunteer in Dover. (Our training is required.)

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 dlattereri86@gmail.com

CABRINI

"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>

QUARTER AUCTION

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be hosting a Quarter Auction at the Holy Cross Parish Hall on Sunday, February 25 beginning at 1 pm. Ticket prices are \$25 which includes a hot lunch from Mission BBQ.

All in paddles may be purchased for \$25. Quarter paddles are \$8, and

MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY

5 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Ed Deptla

6 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am No Mass /priests on retreat

7 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am No Mass/priests on retreat

8 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am No Mass/priests on retreat
ICC 6:00 pm No Mass/priests on retreat

9 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am William Tretina

10 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Sheila Berninger
HC 5:00 pm Rose and Frank Stine

11 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Thomas H. Combs
ICC 8:30 am William F. & Ann R. Sullivan
HC 9:30 am Rose Gazzara
ICC 11:00 am Barbara Scheuing
HC 11:30 am Rosemarie and Don McNelis
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

items will range from \$.25 to \$1. Please contact Linda Darling at 302-233-2246 for more information and to reserve a ticket.

RETRouvaille:

Rediscover the love in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills 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.

FEB. 17/18, 2024			
EMHC		SERVERS	
5:00 PM	F. Ernst	M. Sirolli	J. Novack
	D. Field	N. Sirolli	J. Novack
			LECTORS
			L. Christiansen
			J. Davis
7:30 AM	R. Fritsche	P. Jackson	L. Boggs
	S. Gede	L. Luckett	S. Corpuz
			LECTORS
			M. Jacobs
9:30 AM	D. Martinez	F. Hanlin	A. Wilk
	P. Ford	K. Kelly	C. Wilk
			LECTORS
			S. Ford
			C. Parks
11:30 AM	T. Hernandez	M. Richards	TBD
	E. Pastoriza		
			LECTORS
			TBD
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	TBD		
	LECTORS		
			K. Cairns
11:00 AM	TBF		
	LECTORS		
			D. King
1:00 PM	TBD		

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. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, 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. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

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.



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.

SUNDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5 pm
MONDAY	5 pm
WEDNESDAY	4 pm, 5 pm
THURSDAY	4 pm
FRIDAY	6 am
SATURDAY	5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

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.

Please plan on joining us for a fun evening.

LENT

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 14. Ashes will be distributed during the 8:15 am Mass, 12:10 pm Mass, 5:30 pm service, and 7:00 pm Mass at Holy Cross.

At ICC, ashes will be distributed at the 5:30 pm Mass and 7:00 pm Hispanic Mass.

- El Foro Cristiano Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche con el padre Brennan Ferris. El tema es: El Misterio Eucarístico” donde todo el año las clases se centrará en la EUCARISTIA y la PRESENCIA REAL en la Eucaristía Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024.
- Conquistando Las Naciones para Cristo: Retiro de Sanación Interior, febrero 9-11 del 2024 para Hombres y Mujeres en la parroquia de Holy Cross. Inscripción el viernes, 9 a las 6:30pm. Donación es de \$125. Para más información llame al 302-442-5887 - 302-415-5036 – 302- 685-8192
- **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 , comenzando el 24 de enero día del santo patrón de nuestra diócesis . ¡San Francisco de Sales ruega por nosotros!
- Este mismo elenco también presentara la Vía Crucis en Holy Cross el viernes santo a las 9:00 de la noche en la iglesia.
- Pase un día en peregrinación con el Señor Obispo por las calles de Wilmington. Se les invita a todos los jóvenes y a las familias a participar de la Peregrinación, el 23 de marzo de 2024 de 9:30 am a 5:15PM para la 13.^a Peregrinación de CYM. Se espera reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia.



ICC

Clases de Preparación Sacramental:

- **Confirmation Prep: Session #5**, Sunday February 11th, 3pm-5:30pm in the Parish Hall.
- Clase de Preparación para La Primera Comuni3n: Segunda Sesi3n el martes 6 de febrero en el sal3n.
- **Para la preparaci3n Sacramental de la Confirmaci3n Sesi3n #5** el domingo 11, de febrero de 3:00 – 5:30PM en el sal3n.
- **Se necesitan voluntarios para participar en la dramatizaci3n de la Vía Crucis, anotarse con la Sra. Arline Dosman.**
- **CYM Peregrinaci3n:** Acompañenos el 23 de marzo de 2024, para la 13.^a Peregrinaci3n 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 Peregrinaci3n de parroquia en parroquia. El Itinerario es: Oraci3n de apertura y entretenimiento a las 10:00 am en la iglesia St. Elizabeth, pasar por el Hospital St. Francis para una bendici3n especial a los pacientes, la oportunidad de celebrar la Reconciliaci3n 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 Bendici3n 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 informaci3n y formularios de registro para ICC y detalles del autobús, 410-482-8939.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: February 4th and on February 18th at 3:00 pm-5:00pm

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)

Next LAFF class is February 11 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!

Tuesday offerings: **Note new start date (offered at 9 am or 7 pm)**

January 16th-February 6th Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession (cancellation due to inclement weather on 1/16th will be made up date to be determined)

"Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bout of God's love.

February 13th-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:

Next class is Sunday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 21.

MOUNT 2000:

Please pray for our teens and chaperones who will be traveling to MOUNT 2000 next weekend for retreat.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

First Communion: Prep Session #2 on Tuesday, February 6th, at 6:30pm promptly in parish hall.

Confirmation Prep: Session #5, Sunday February 11th, 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. I will have the youth contact you as we leave Wilmington, we may make a short stop for fast food. The day's event is from 9:30am-5:15 pm. Please contact Alicia Poppiti for more information and registration forms for ICC and bus details, 410-482-8939.

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MORE ADULT ED OPPORTUNITIES



In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

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



In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

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

Wholesome. A term I grew up with. The difference being in the spelling. *Holsum* was the brand name given to an ordinary, nothing to write home about loaf of soft white bread. The name of the bread suggested to the consumer the “good for you” healthy choice of all the bread selections on the market shelf.

Wholesome, there’s just something about saying the word that evokes a good feeling right down to your toes while crossing your arms across your chest giving yourself a big old hug!

Wholesome- the sort of activities, the sort of literature, the kinds of games and entertainment we should be exposing our children to. It was great news when I heard from a parent of her daughter’s first place blue ribbon finish at last weekend’s Elocution Contest held annually by the 4-H Regional Clubs. Later in the week I learned from another parent of her son’s first place blue ribbon finish on the same day, different level. As if that wasn’t enough the second-place ribbon finisher is also a HC Crusader! Just like a news reporter, I grabbed my paper and pencil and set off to interview our four local celebrities.

I began with Gianna K. Gianna has been a 4-H’er since she was five joining the organization as a Cloverbud. Last weekend, she was awarded a First Place Ribbon for the speech written about a disease that took the life of a beloved friend and pet named Burt. Burt was the name of a horse she owned and came to love over time; with the beginning stages of their relationship a bit rocky due to the stubborn and perseverant personalities of both Gianna and Burt. An accomplished equestrian, Gianna and Burt showed in many competitions. Several years and a host of ribbons later Gianna looked (I saw the video) the professional in the delivery of her speech knowing that she would be judged on clarity, eye contact, passion, and the incorporation of hand gestures. The focus of Gianna’s speech was EPM (Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis), a fatal disease of the nervous system acquired by ingesting water or field grass contaminated by opossum fecal matter. The disease that took Burt’s life. Poised and confident throughout our conversation, Gianna told me that at the level at which she was competing (Junior) a five-or-six-minute delivery is required. She told me that “it’s not difficult especially when you love to talk about what you’re talking about.” Gianna concluded her speech by stating that she intends to pursue a career dedicated to researching a cure for the disease that took the life of her beloved friend, Burt.

My next conversation was had with Ephraim Y. “Are you an older sibling who is wondering what it’s like to be the younger sibling?” Thus began Ephraim’s speech in which he offered six tips for the younger sibling in the family. Two of his most helpful being to recognize that the O.S. always thinks he has all the answers. Ephraim feels it’s easier to accept that. The second tip? Seek out the O.S. as a source of conversation and advice. There are bonuses as well. Ephraim thinks it’s a little easier being the second child because his parents already had a stab at parenting with the O.S. before he was born. Secondly, Ephraim feels that it’s easier to make friends because he already has a “practice friend” in his O.S. “You have to learn to be nice to him first.” Ephraim concluded his speech by extending gratitude to his O.S. for being a “great big brother.” Ephraim told me that participants in the Elocution Competition came from all of Kent County. The competition must have been formidable. Congratulations to Ephraim for his First Place Ribbon representing the 4-H Steamrollers Club.

Also a Steamroller, Andrew C.’s focus was Ax, now a family pet who is a retired Canine Police Force Officer. A first-time participant in this annual competition, Andrew included such topics as the history of Canine Police Force in New Castle County Law Enforcement, a few facts about Ax as a police dog, and a couple of stories about Ax’s endeavors as a canine trained to seek and find bombs and drugs. Purchased by NCC Police, Ax was born in Czechoslovakia and trained for six months in a NCC Training Facility. One of the stories Andrew told me during our interview included the discovery of several shell casings on a parking lot following a shooting eight days previous. Andrew was amazed that following a couple of days of rainfall, Ax was still able to sniff out the spent casings enabling the police officers to go forth in their investigation. Andrew told me the “all canines are trained to sniff out humans.” And so it was that Ax was able to locate a child in the woods following an attempt to run away from home. Congratulations Andrew on your choice of an interesting topic you certainly show a passion for.

A third Steamroller, Nicholas K. who was awarded First Place in the Beginners 2 Division for his polished delivery of a speech on Speedskating. Four of the attributes Nicholas admires most in speedskaters is their exercise and conditioning, and their ability to stagger (change) lanes during the race. But most of all, “their thighs are huge!!” A non-speedskater, Nicholas has a deep fondness for the sport and an admiration for the athlete. He told me that to add to the excitement of the race, the finish line is televised for the judges to make the correct call in a close race. Skaters travel “faster than 50 km/hr. that’s faster than a car!” he mentioned. Nicholas and I also discussed the culture of the Olympics, competing under national flags, and other ice related athletics. Congratulations Nicholas on your first- place ribbon. Well done!

To I’d like to echo my agreement with one of our competitors who said that 4-H membership and all the really fun activities sure “beats sitting at home on an I-Pad all day.”

Rome's major transgressions came during a period when the Roman Emperor decided that single men made better soldiers than married men — this was because it was custom that a husband could get an exemption from military service. To counter this, Emperor outlawed marriage for young men (at least for a period of time) as he prepared to draft them into service. Recognizing the value of sanctity of Christian marriage, St. Valentine secretly began marrying men and women (which allowed the husband to be exempt from military service). Alas, St. Valentine was found out! He was taken before the Roman authorities for his actions; he was sentenced to death.

Was Blind, but Now I See (Part II). According to tradition, shortly before the day of his execution, the Roman official who ran the jail took the renowned miracle-worker St. Valentine to his blind daughter. He healed the daughter. Back in his cell, he wrote a note that was to be brought to the formerly-blind girl — and it was signed, you guessed it, “From your Valentine.” It also noted that he also wrote various notes to other persecuted Christians, reminding them of his prayers and God’s love... and those were signed, you guessed it again, “From your Valentine.”

Same Date, Same Place. Ultimately, St. Valentine of Rome was beaten and, like St. Valentine of Terni, beheaded. He was martyred in 269, along the Via Flaminia, just outside of Rome. His remains were later taken and placed in the Church of St. Praxedes.

Coincidence; I think not. As you can see, with the exception of St. Valentine of Rome’s life providing details of a specific way he infuriated the Roman authorities, these “two” saints’ stories to very close in key details: same approximate birth year, key location are similar, both were priests, one was a Bishop and one was likely a Bishop, both annoyed Roman authorities enough to jailed, both healed a blind girl, both left a note signed “From your Valentine,” both were jailed, tortured and beheaded, both met their death on the Via Flaminia near Rome, both died on February 14, 269, and both had their relics place in the Church of St. Praxedes.

Valentine, Valentine. While one can never rule anything out, if were to bet money on this issue, my money would definitely be on the idea that St. Valentine of Terni and St. Valentine of Rome were the same person. The two Valentine traditions likely emanated and spread from two different places — perhaps in Terni and Rome — and ultimately took on two different lives of their own within Catholic tradition (where the idea that they were two different people kind of stuck).

O Patron Saint, How Great thou “Art”. These “two” Valentines are both designated as Patron Saints invoked against epilepsy, fainting and plague. Both are Patron Saints of happy marriages, engaged couples, and beekeepers (perhaps because the happily married and engaged couples call each other “honey”). In art, both a represented by images of a priest giving sight to a blind girl, a bishop being beheaded, a bishop performing a wedding, a priest bearing a sword, a priest holding a sun, a bishop refusing to worship a pagan idol.

St. Valentine’s Day Massacred? St. Patrick’s Day, I often lament, takes a day dedicated to an ascetic, holy man who spent his life ridding Ireland of pagan belief, and celebrates it with images from pagan belief (e.g., leprechauns, unicorns, pots of gold) and very non-ascetic partying. Similarly, St. Valentine’s Day has been reduced from a day honoring a martyr’s sacrifice, to a day recollected by roses, chocolates, cupids (a false pagan god), and sensualism. There is nothing wrong with showing your love to a loved one on Valentine’s Day — that’s sweet and kind. The problem, the actual premise of St. Valentine’s Day, its *raison d’être* has been just about entirely wiped away.

Ashes and Hearts. So, this year, let’s remember that, as St. Valentine’s Day lands on Ash Wednesday — it is a day of penance. So, let’s cool down the St. Valentine’s Day stuff and perhaps move all of that to February 15 (the chocolates in a heart-shaped box will keep for a day). Instead, let’s also take a moment, to turn to the martyr, St. Valentine, to strengthen us in faith as we prepare for Lent, starting on February 14. While, at Mass, we no longer observe St. Valentine’s feast day on the Universal Church’s liturgical calendar, the Church still observes his feast on February 14 — and gives us a prayer in the Novena to St. Valentine that is worth praying and reflecting on in the days ahead, to wit:

Pray, then, O holy Martyr [St. Valentine], for the Faithful, who are so persevering in celebrating thy memory. The day of Judgment will reveal to us all thy glorious merits. O, intercede for us, that we may then be made thy companions at the right hand of the Great Judge, and be united with thee eternally in heaven. Let us pray: Grant, we beseech thee, O Almighty God, that we who solemnize the festival of blessed Valentine, Thy Martyr, may, by his intercession, be delivered from all the evils that threaten us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor