

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 5, 2023

5th Sunday Ordinary Time

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

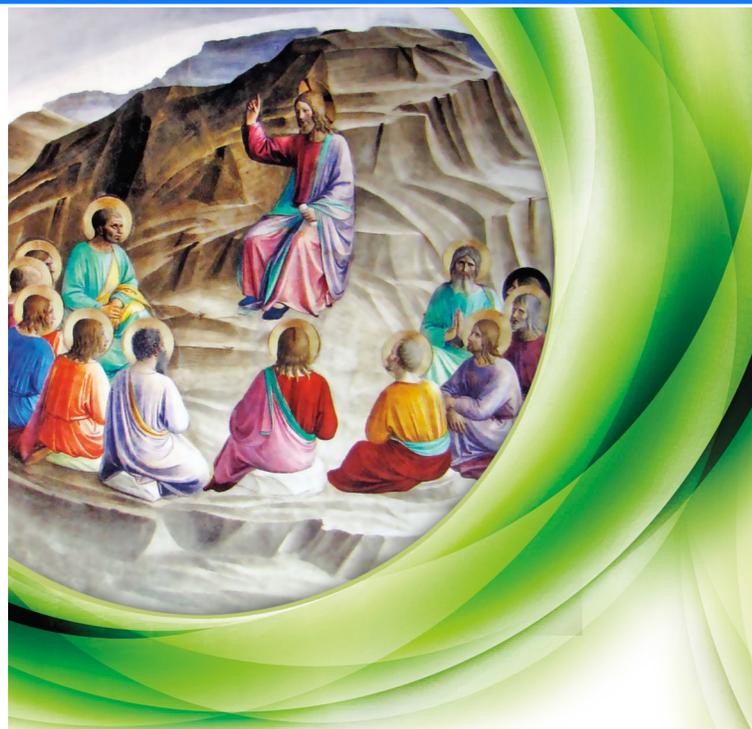
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Matthew 5:16

© Diocesan
The Sermon on the Mount, Fra Angelico (circa 1395-1455)

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

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

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.

TAX STATEMENTS

The **HC Parish Office** has emailed out tax statements to anyone we had an email on file.

If you did not receive a copy of your statement and would like one, please call the Parish Office or email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org. Thank you.

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

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending January 22, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$28,891	\$27,760	\$1,131
YTD	\$790,634	\$824,340	(\$33,706)
Needs	\$1,602	\$1,604	(\$2)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending January 22, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$5,039
Second Collection	\$736

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,

I write this week's column in the wake of the conclusion of the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week (January 29-February 4). This is a week set aside to highlight not just Catholic education (which is learned in the home, in parish religious education programs, and in Catholic schools) but especially on that 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 goes on to banish 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 Lord's presence known.

Catholic Education in General. Today, Catholic education -- in our Catholic School and in 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 to 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 thing.

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?" allow 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 that is 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 to that question. A student in a Catholic school, just as in any school, studies these subjects. But 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 he is learning all of these subject in order to know God, and his creation, and his good works, better. More specifically, a student who attends a Catholic school studies history, science, math, literature, etc., but 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 that is 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 student 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 "Why?".

(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:

- Regina Jones Brake

NEWLY BAPTIZED (HC)

Congratulations to our newest members:

- Matthew Jr. Fenelus
- Mynlaura Vilton
- Walmy Monfiston

NEWLY REGISTERED (HC)

Welcome to our newly registered parishioners:

- Kevin, Jennifer, Emma and Adelyn Kober

THANK YOU

You can drop off donations to the Samaritan Pantry any day between 7 am and 6 pm. The white door by the carriage house is unlocked at those times. You can put canned good on the table in that room or meats in the freezer.

6TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (FEB 12)

FIRST READING: ECCLESIASTES 15:15-20

We are given the choice of life or death.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:6-10

The gift of the Spirit reaches the depths of everything, even the depths of God.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:17-37

Our virtue must go deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees.

IS GOD CALLING YOU THIS NEW YEAR TO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM?

If you have a desire to develop a more intimate relationship with God through a deeper form of prayer, God may be calling you to the spirituality of Carmel: the spirituality of Saints Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross and Therese of Lisieux. You can explore this call with the Community of Mary of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. We meet the second Saturday of every month at 9:15 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Seaford, DE for Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours and Lectio Divina, or sacred reading, of the Sunday Scripture. For further information, and to join us for prayer, please call Dawn Waehler, OCDS, 302-249-6904 or Diane Householder, OCDS, 302-855-1190.

SODALITY MTG.

Our next meeting in Sunday, February 12, at 12:30 pm. The meeting is on the second floor in the St. Luke room. Come join us in the ELC building.

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.wvme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 10 - 12, 2023 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.

SAVE THE DATE

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 1 pm at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, Delaware. The Mass coincides with National Marriage Week, February 7 through 12.

The Bishop will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 noon 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. There is no cost to you, however reservations are required. Please make your reservations by January 30th.

This year, you can register by clicking on <https://cdow.coursestorm.com/category/family-life-events> or by calling the office at 302-295-0657. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage and Family Life 302-295-0657 or OMFL@cdow.org

SWITCH TO eGIVING (HC)

Begin the new year with eGiving to help sustain and build ministries throughout 2023 that reflect the steadfast promise of God's love. The need is

MASS INTENTIONS FEBRUARY

6 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	No Mass today
7 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	No Mass today
8 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	No Mass today
9 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	No Mass today
ICC 7:00 pm	For the People
10 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	No Mass today
11 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Jean & Norman McClure <i>(8 am Mass at ICC today)</i>
HC 5:00 pm	William Niebrzydowski
12 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Thomas H. Combs
ICC 8:30 am	Andrea Nagyiski
HC 9:30 am	Ana & Augustus Furjanic
ICC 11:00 am	Jack Carrow
HC 11:30 am	Maria Dolores Pantoja
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

*(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)*

great in our community, and your generous online gifts will help people all around us.

We prayerfully request that you consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet. You can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting faith.direct/DE251. Or go to the Holy Cross website (holycrossdover.org) and click on the Online Giving button.

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.

HOLY CROSS FEBRUARY 11/12

	EMHC		SERVERS
5:00 PM	J. Bieker C. Bugglin	M. Caccese W. Thomas	L. Curley B. Richardson L. Richardson LECTORS F. Urick V. Viddy
7:30 AM	J. Denney A. Fischer	J. Fischer R. Fritzsche	E. Bydlon S. Shevock E. Wadhams LECTORS D. Kilby
9:30 AM	T. Arndt K. Boyer	K. Canfield R. Willey	J. Beugre C. Beugre M. Ford LECTORS R. Alderman T. Baurys
11:30 AM	C. Garcia B. Guzman	A. Luna	LECTORS TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	K. Durham	LECTORS K. Cairns
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

Beginning on Monday, February 6, the church will be closed for the week to allow for this work to start. **The church will remain closed from February 6 through Saturday morning, February 11.** If they do not complete the job in one week, then the church will reclose again on Monday, February 13, until the job is completed. We will have a better idea once they begin the work.

PRIEST STUDY WEEK

The priests are away on a Priest Study Week the week of Feb. 6 through Feb. 10. There will be Mass on Monday, Feb. 6, at Immaculate Conception at 8 am. The rest of the week, there will be no 8 am Mass or service. **On Saturday, February 11, Mass will be held at 8 am at ICC followed by confessions from 8:30 to 10 am.**

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

Please Note: The Chapel will also be closed the week of Feb 6 through Feb. 11 to redo the chairs in the chapel.

SUNDAY	6 am, 4 pm, 5pm, 6 pm
MONDAY	5 am, 5 pm
TUESDAY	6 am, 5 pm, 8 pm
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>



- Terminaremos nuestra fiesta navideña hoy domingo 5 de febrero, con la celebración de la fiesta de la Candelaria. En el salón de eventos de la parroquia.
- La diócesis una vez más nos ha extendido la invitación de participar en la Peregrinación CYM que se llevará a cabo el sábado 1 de abril. Esperamos comenzar los ensayos el miércoles 15 de febrero, en el salón de nuestra parroquia gemela de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel. Los ensayos serán todos los miércoles a las 7 de la noche.
- Estamos buscando adolescente y jóvenes para formar parte del elenco para la dramatización de la pasión de nuestro Señor. Si usted desea participar por favor hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- Estamos organizando una reunión de planeamiento el 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 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 RELIGIOSA

CONFIRMACION DE JOVENES:

Quinta Sesión es el Domingo, 12 de febrero, a las 2:30-5pm en el Salón Parroquial.

Clases de Primera Comunión en ICC:

Segunda Sesión es el martes 7 de febrero de 6:30 – 7:30 en el salón

Formación de catequistas : Martes, 31 de enero a las 7:00 PM en el Salón

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class 2/12/2023 3 to 5 pm

Next class 2/26/2023

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Registration forms available at 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)

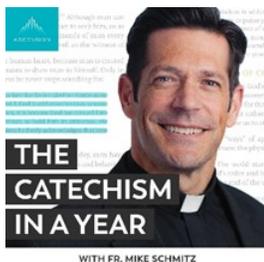
Next class February 12, 2023 at 10:30 am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Early Learning Center. Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF? Contact Tammy Korosec.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

"The Eucharist in Scripture" with Scott Hahn
"In *The Eucharist in Scripture*, discover God's plan as it is expressed through the Bible and the Mass. This six-lesson study, presented by Dr. Scott Hahn, will unlock the meaning of covenant, sacrifice, and sacrament as understood in the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation.

Built around three of Dr. Hahn's foundational talks: "The Lamb's Supper," "The Fourth Cup," and "Consuming the Word," *The Eucharist in Scripture* examines the biblical foundations of the Eucharist and explores the Church's liturgy as the original context for the books of the Bible."

Classes began January 10th at either 9AM or 7 PM in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Parish Office. This will be a free class. No workbooks will be provided. If you are interested contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122



www.ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear

CONFIRMATION AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Class:

Next class is Sunday, February 12 at 3:30 pm or Wednesday, February 15 at 6 pm

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

Youth Confirmation for Immaculate Conception:

Fifth Session is Sunday, February 12, at 2:30-5pm in the Parish hall.

First Communion classes Immaculate Conception:

Second Session is Tuesday, February 7th, 6:30-7:30pm in the ICC hall.

It's a great thing when one child has a real and positive influence over another. In most cases that influence is born out of friendship, trust, and common interests. Based on the already established friendship, oftentimes doors are opened to new learning experiences and exciting adventures. I think this describes what I learned from two of our fifth grade students; Ephraim and Nicholas who are members of one of the local 4-H chapters. Nicholas, who has recently established his membership in the local chapter states that he was inspired by his friend Ephraim to enroll. Following in the footsteps of his parents and older sibling, Ephraim has been a 4-H member for the past four years. Both boys agree that the fringe benefits of membership include the fun activities and games enjoyed during the monthly meetings, the projects members engage in, and the belief in the 4-H mission.

Currently the chapter that Ephraim and Nicholas belong to is looking forward to the upcoming Favorites Foods Contest and planning a course of study which at this point looks like it might be something in the area of geology. My interest was piqued by the Favorite Foods Contest, the boys explained that the participants were to select a meal to prepare, arrange a fancy table setting, select beverages, a dessert, and an appetizer.

Last weekend Ephraim and Nicholas were participants in a Public Speaking contest held by the local chapter. I gathered that there were different categories for the participants to choose from before writing their essay. The website tells us that participants may choose from the following categories:

- a) Informative b) persuasive c) motivational and d) entertaining.**

Ephraim chose to write an entertaining story based on a family experience while Nicholas chose from the informative category.

Their selections follow:

Good afternoon, my name is Nicholas and I am ten years old and a part of the SteamRollers 4-H group. My speech is about Holy Cross School. Holy Cross is located in Dover, DE, HCS provides an academically rich, faith-filled learning environment, thus ensuring a Catholic values-based education. At HC we strive to convey a sense of justice, peace, compassion and respect for all God's creation. HC colors are green and white. The school requires a uniform that includes a green uniform shirt, navy blue pants and a black belt. There is also something called tag days where you get to dress up in fun colors. The school mascot is the HC Crusader. There are approximately 322 students at HCS/ HC includes grade levels from preschool through eighth grade. There are four buildings at HC; the Early Learning Center, Elementary and Junior High and the Gymnasium. Holy Cross offers Before and Aftercare. There are four Special classes at HC. They are gym, media, art, and music. HC has a band from fifth to eighth grade. Our school teaches Religion because we are a Catholic school. HC offers sports such as volleyball, basketball, and soccer. HC has a Home-School Association that organizes fun activities for students and families such as Movie Night a Textile Drive, Trunk or Treat, and many more. Our school has a church connected to it and what's cool is students go to Mass almost every single Wednesday. In conclusion, for more information go to holycrossdover.org; all lower case. Thank you!

And from Ephraim:

Have you ever been in a situation where you feel like you might die? Well, maybe not that extreme but something close to it. Hello, my name is Ephraim Yourek, I am 11 years old, I am in the fifth grade at Holy Cross School, and I am in the Steamrollers 4-H club. I have been in this exact situation before. Want to hear all about it? Let's go! It was December 23, the night before Christmas Eve. I had just gone to the movies to see Avatar, Way of the Water with some friends and my family. After the movie we went out to dinner. It was a little cold and windy before the movie but when we left dinner there were wind gusts of almost 40 miles per hour and it was freezing. It was just like a hike to get back to the car that was 20 feet away from the restaurant. Earlier that day we received a package that was not addressed to us. It was addressed to someone on a nearby street. We felt that we had to get it to them because the tag on the package said Gamestop, and the package felt like a video game. We thought that this was possibly a Christmas present so we had to get it to the family. So we started driving when, Boom, all of the lights on the street we were driving on went out. We were a little flustered but we thought "It's nothing much, just a little power outage." So we kept on driving when we saw a sight that is not to common around here. A telephone pole was lying across the right side of the road with power lines attached. Then, Clack Clack! We felt something on the roof of our car. My dad who is usually the navigator was yelling at my mom, the driver, to ignore the stop sign and keep going. This was when we got a little bit scared, well maybe a little more than a little bit. I was freaking out! Ok, back to the story. We were on the person's road and then. Skkkkkkkrrrrrrrrrrttttt! There was a huge tree laying in the middle of the road. We turned the car all the way around and had to drive to the persons house a completely different way. By this point everyone in the car was a little scared. My 15 year old brother, especially. We delivered the package and hightailed out of there. We got back home safe and sound. As we were getting ready to go to our grandparents house on Christmas Eve, we found part of a power line on the roof of our car. Now you can see, things do not always go as planned, even around the holidays. Thank you for listening and have a great day.

Congratulations to Ephraim for his First Place Blue Ribbon and to Nicholas for his Second Place Blue Ribbon.

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 follower 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 all of them knew "Why?"

Faith Hill. Our Bishops and our Church today, needs the faithful -- whether one is a student in Catholic school or in religious education, or is centenarian sitting in the pews -- to spread the truth of Jesus Christ. We need the faithful 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 answers to the questions of "Why?".

Extra! Extra! As mentioned, this past week was Catholic Schools Week, a week in which we celebrate the joy and power of Catholic education, most 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. They are learning to understand the purpose of their life and that they have a place in God's plan. And 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 age: "Why did God create me?" Spoiler alert! The answer is: He created me to know him, love him and serve him in this world, so as to be happy with him in the next.

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 Weeks celebrate that what is imparted in a Catholic education is important to not just a student's mind but to that student's heart and soul. God bless our Catholic Schools.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor