



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 6, 2022

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
No choirs at the Masses at the present time; a cantor will be available for the 5 pm and the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday and Friday, 12:10 pm
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am—9 pm

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

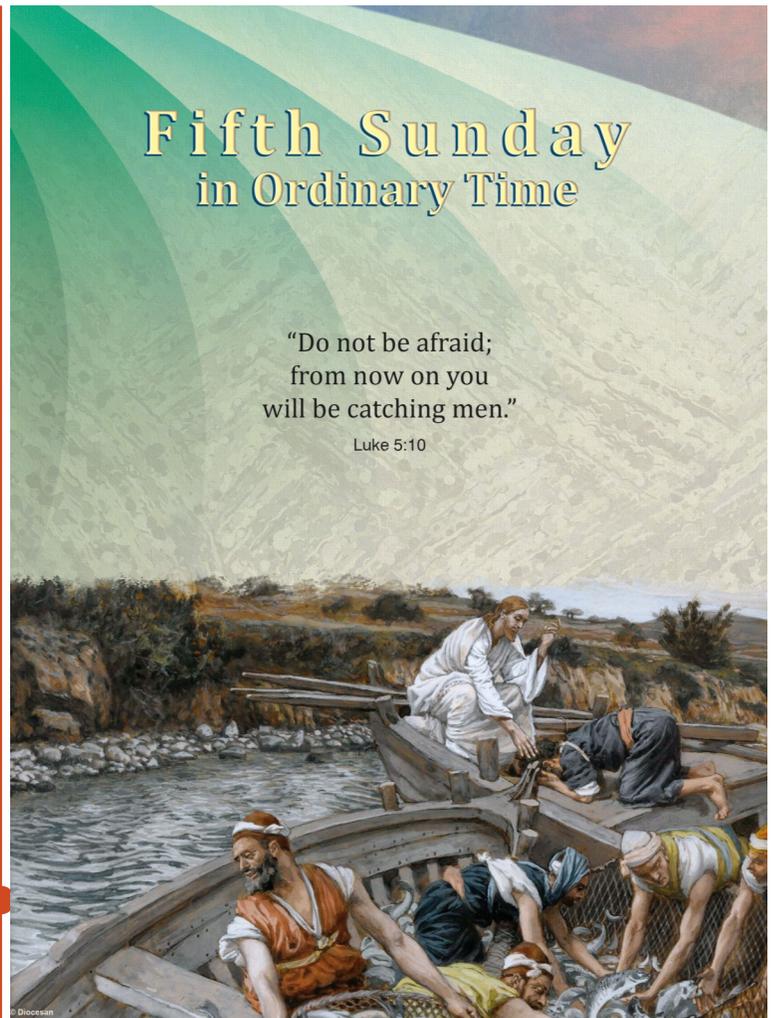
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Do not be afraid;
from now on you
will be catching men.”

Luke 5:10

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.

In response to the rising numbers of positive COVID-19 cases, particularly the Omicron variant, the Diocese of Wilmington is issuing new COVID-19 protocols for all parishes effective January 6, 2022.

- Clergy and volunteers are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED, to obtain COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.
- Clergy and Liturgical ministers at all parishes are encouraged to wear masks, except when speaking publicly.
- Parishes are to encourage all attendees to be masked while attending Mass.
- Mass attendees over the age of 5 who are not vaccinated for COVID-19 must wear a mask.
- Ministries and non-liturgical parish activities should be carefully evaluated and, if possible, held virtually or with limited contact.
 - o This effort includes third-party use of facilities, such as Scouts, community groups, etc.
 - o Parishes should consider rescheduling in-person social gatherings scheduled for January or February to later in the year.
- Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must carefully adhere to proper hand sanitization following the distribution of communion on the tongue.
- Parishes may continue to make holy water available in fonts.
- Filled hand sanitizing dispensers should be available at entrances.
- Clergy should be mindful about social distancing and hand shaking when greeting parishioners before and after Mass.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

January 23, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$27,490	\$26,000	\$1,490
YTD	\$791,960	\$780,200	\$11,760
Needs	\$1,241	\$1,480	(\$239)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending January 23, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,953
2nd collection	\$644

For tax statements for ICC, please contact the ICC Parish Office.

Tax Statements

The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2021 year. If we have your email in our records, this information will be emailed to you by 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.

Dear Parishioners,

Here we are in February, on the weekend after a big weekend snow storm. In this regard I am I going to write about something in connected to — well, August. “Huh?” you may ask. Yes, I am writing about August, because what I am writing about is, interestingly, connected with snow... in August. Again, I hear a “Huh?” chorus. Snow in August? Is the Pastor, dare I say, flaking out? I promise I am writing about snow — snow in August. Read on and your blizzard of questions will be answered.

Major News. On August 5th each year, there is a feast day commonly identified as “St. Mary Major.” Now, when I was kid I always thought that Mary Major was a person; I was wrong. Mary Major is not a person, but, rather, a place. You see, St. Mary Major is a shorthand form of the full name of the holy day, which is fully and formally named, “The Feast of The Dedication of St. Mary Major Basilica.” So, now you might be pondering: “Ah, so, there is a Basilica named after this lady, Mary Major... so then here is a ‘Mary Major.’” To answer in Christmas-type tones: No, Virginia, there is NOT a Mary Major.

An Emphasis from Ephesus. You see, the name of the August 5th holy day is a somewhat confusing translation of the name of the Basilica itself, which is, properly, the “Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore” — “Maggiore” means “major,” in the sense of primacy, or priority. Thus, on August 5th, the Catholic Church celebrates the holy day that honors the major (most important) Basilica of St. Mary. And the reason it is so honored is because it was the first Church in the west to be named and dedicated in honor of Mary. This place of primacy — being first -- is indicated by the word “major.”

A Major Snow. But, you may wonder, “Hey it’s February! And didn’t you say this Pastor’s Column had to do with snow?” Okay, I’m getting to it. So, here’s the story, morning glory. You see, the feast of St. Mary Major on August 5th, is a feast that

used to be known as Our Lady of the Snows. This may raise the question: So, why was it called Our Lady of the Snows? Why would a summertime feast be connected to snow?

Dream House. To answer the question of why the August Feast for St. Mary Major is connected to snow, let us step in to the Wayback Machine and set the dial to Fourth Century Rome, the year 352 A.D. It seems there was a wealthy Roman husband and wife who had no heirs. This family wanted to donate their wealth to the church but didn’t know what do with it specifically. That night they prayed that God might direct them in what they should do. The husband, John, had a dream on the evening of August 4, 352, in which he had a vision of a church honoring Mary being built on the Esquiline Hill in Rome, and that the location for this church would be marked in snow. That same night, Pope Liberius had a similar dream in which our Blessed Mother indicated the building of a Church whose location would be miraculously indicated to the Pope.

The Weather Channeled. The next morning, on the large hill across from their home — Esquiline Hill — snow had fallen. Now, that’s not so odd you might think — snow on a hillside. But it was odd, and was miraculous, as it was August 5, and it was in Italy: snow in the summer there is unheard of. But it did snow! God channeling his gracious power, saw the snow fall in the form of an outline of a building. And tradition tells us that Pope Liberius himself staked out the snow’s perimeter (which form an outline of a church building) before the snow melted. And so it came to pass that the Basilica of St. Mary Major was built on that spot, based on the outline. This gave birth to the title of Mary, as “Our Lady of the Snows” — remember her role and purpose in what came to pass. And that title became the title of the feast day on August 5 for many,

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mano Salla	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/Susan Cutrona	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 8Is
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

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Look for a tangible way to show your spouse you care for him/her today. Also let this prompt you to extend your love to others today, even those with whom you disagree.

PARENTING POINTERS

No matter what our skin color, religion, or economic status we need to learn to get along with people who are different from us. As a family, learn about a race different from your own this month.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, February 12th, Fr. Glenn Evers and Ms. Arline Dosman will give an update as to the progress of the Diocese of Wilmington’s Synod 2021 – 2023 activities. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching “Catholic Forum” on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts.

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 6

6TH ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 17:5-8

Jeremiah’s prophecy is uncompromising and must have challenged his hearers. Trusting in God alone rather than in human strength and wealth can seem like madness, but we are invited to do just that.

SECOND READING : 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12, 16-20

Paul says that without Christ’s resurrection, his teaching makes no sense. Either we live and die by this, or we are simply talking nonsense. That is the challenge of faith.

GOSPEL: LUKE 6:17, 20-26

Luke’s Beatitudes are more uncompromising than those of Matthew. We don’t have the get-out clause here of being blessed if we are “poor in spirit”. It is poverty, pure and simple, that is blessed. The challenge for us is to dare to believe.



THE MINISTRY OF MEN TO MEN

MEN OF THE HOLY CROSS (NEW AND MORE CONVENIENT MEETINGS)

It is now easier than ever for you to join the Men of The Holy Cross! You are welcome to come in person or participate from the comfort of your home, sitting in your favorite chair with a cup of coffee. Thanks to our newest innovation (a state of the art "Meeting Owl" which makes you feel like you are there in person), all you need is your smartphone, tablet or computer. Just type in or click on the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting set up and join our hybrid meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/30861480> Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM (time certain) for prayer, gospel reflections, Church teachings and timely discussions. Even for busy men who are constantly on the go, it has never been more convenient for you to give us a try; our meetings are as close as your phone!

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences and prayers to the families of:

- *Charles Smith*

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Orders are being accepted for our Memorial Area brick pavers that will be placed in "Honor and Memory of Loved Ones" by Memorial Day. Orders must be received no later than March 15th. Order forms are available at the Parish Office or by contacting Len Dornberger at LDornberger@HolyCrossDover.org -- 302-674-5787 ext. 135.



MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY/FEBRUARY

7 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Henry Mitchler
8 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Henry Mitchler, Jr.
9 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Rosemarie Natali (LI)
10 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Shelia Berninger
ICC 6:30 pm	For the People
11 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Bob Bresnahan (LI)
12 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Amelia Ronquillo
HC 5 pm	Elizabeth Trocki
13 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	John Sutlic (LI)
ICC 8:30 am	William F. and Ann R. Sullivan
HC 9:30 am	Grace Kapys (LI)
ICC 11 am	John Carrow
HC 11:30 am	Tom Burton
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

faith in action

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. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 11-13, 2022 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.

HOLY CROSS FEB 12/13, 2022

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Bieker J. Clendaniel S. Mjurawski
C. Bugglin J. Salamone J. Novack
M. Casey J. Novack

LECTORS

R. Alderman
D. Kilby

7:30 AM C. Brown R. O'Neill B. Richardson
R. Fritzche P. Sheldon L. Richardson
D. Novack C. Wilk

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM D. Martinez J. McIlvain A. Carter
K. Kelly L. Olmstead E. Seelig
D. McGinnis J. Seeny

LECTORS

J. Coffield
M. Sossich

11:30 AM R. Ramirez R. Richards K. Espinosa
B. Guzman E. Guzman C. Geronimo

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM K. Durham

LECTORS

J. Tormey, Jr.

11:00 AM B. Van-Vessan

LECTORS

L. Schlaupitz

1:00 PM To be determined

LECTORS

B. Gonzalez

ATTENTION ALL EXTRA-ORDINARY
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Parishioners in need of our Homebound Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds, and we need more EM's who are willing to become part of our homebound ministry. We serve nursing homes, assisted living facilities, the hospital, and those at home.

Please consider joining this ministry. We will train you and have you shadow another EM to get you ready. Call the Parish Office so we can get you started. Please pray to discern if this ministry would be for you. We need your help!!

Call 302-674-5787,
ext. 110 or 113 to leave your name.

PURSE BINGO

Purse Bingo: Tickets are on sale - don't wait!



Join us Saturday evening, April 2 for a fun-filled evening, and a chance to win a great purse!

Cost is \$25 for 10 games, door prizes and light refreshments served. 50/50 and Chinese Auction

chances for sale. Must be 18 to play. Please see Linda Darling for tickets - tables of 8 may be reserved. ldarling@holycrossdover.org Proceeds will go to help our high school teens attend Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer in Greensboro, NC. Thank you for your support.

VIRTUAL BASKET AUCTION FUNDRAISER

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be sponsoring a virtual Basket Auction on Sunday, February 27th at 1:00 P.M. There will be dozens of wonderful baskets to take a chance on. Tickets are \$25.00 for a single sheet (20 chances to win) or \$15.00 for a half sheet (10 chances to win)! They may be purchased by sending a check made payable to Delaware State Columbiettes with your name, email and phone number, to Arlene Brown, 87 Paige Place, Felton, DE 19943 (amb550@hotmail.com).

We will email you your ticket number and the Zoom information prior to the event if you would like to attend. If you cannot attend, we will contact you if you win! TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY February 23rd! We look forward to having you join us for a fun filled afternoon.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a

SUNDAY 10 am, 12 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

We really need volunteers to take some time on Saturday and Sunday. Please consider taking one hour in the chapel to spend with Jesus.

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANA

- preparémonos para "La Cuaresma como Camino gradual de Conversión" gran Retiro
- Presentado por el Rev. Juan Alberto Cárdenas. Sacerdote Agustino de Colombia
- Fecha :26 de febrero, 2022. Hora 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- donación: \$15 para los alimentos
- Parroquia La Inmaculada Concepción. Dirección 522 Main St. Marydel, Maryland 21649
- Habrá confesiones, Hora Santa, charlas, música y reflexiones y mucho más.

- No habrá la celebración de la Candelaria en la parroquia, pero si usted va a tener una levantada en su hogar con mucho cuidado. Recuerde que todavía estamos con el contagio del virus.

- 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 Prebautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118

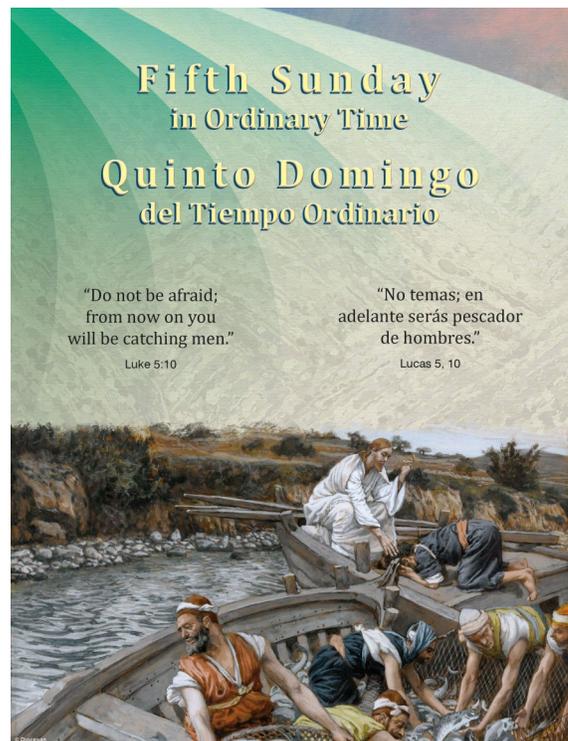
- Symbolon Explicación de la fe católica: Viviendo la fe católica. Estamos ofreciendo una serie de videos / libros de estudio una vez más El costo es de \$ 25 para el libro del participante Parte 2.
- En español en la parroquia de la Santa Cruz. Con el padre Oscar y la Sra. Arline. Todos los viernes a las 6:00 – 8:00 PM de la tarde el ELC a partir de enero. Si está interesado hable con la Sra. Arline. En ingles en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción con la

Sra. Alicia. Todos los lunes a las 7:00P.M. La primera parte continuara hasta el13 de diciembre y la segunda parte comenzara después del Año Nuevo.

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA ICCC

- Clases de preparación para la Primera Comunion comienza el martes, 25 de enero de 2022 de 6:30 a :30 de la tarde. maestro y estudiantes deben de usar mascarillas. Si su hijo no se siente bien que se quede en casa y cuídese.

- Prep candidatos a la Confirmación – próximo domingo 13 de febrero, 2022 a las 2:30-5pm en el salón.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: February 6 3:30 to 5:30 pm

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office.
- 7th and 8th graders are in the Holy Cross Junior High building.
- No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter either building.
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY.
- Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.

Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows:

- Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and Sacramental Prep – 5:15pm
- Grades K-1 -5:20pm
- Grades 2- 5:25pm
- Grades 3-4 5:30pm

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)
Next class Feb 6th. [See email from Deacon Vince with instructions](#)

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

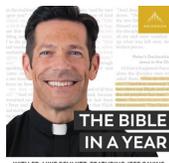
Adult Eductaion (HC)

The Bible in a Year Podcast

“In The Bible in a Year podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes. Using an exclusive reading plan rooted in The Bible Timeline (a ground-breaking approach to understanding salvation history developed by Biblical scholar Jeff Cavins) you won’t just read the Bible ... you’ll finally understand how all the pieces fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!” Also available in Spanish led by Father Sergio Serrano. See the links below:

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>



YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Classes:

Next classes are February 23 for Wednesday class and February 27 for Sunday class.

Youth Group:

Next Youth Group Meeting- please mark your calendar for March 26. Junior High - 3-4:30 High School 6-7:30

Catholic Heart Work Camp Meeting:

Tuesday, March 15 at 7 pm in the ELC Matthew/Mark room upstairs.

Any 8th through 1st year college teens interested in attending Greensboro camp July 17 to 23 are asked to attend. Registration and fundraising will be discussed.

SRE (IC)

All classes are meeting from 9:40-10:50am every Sunday in classrooms.

Please park, walk your children to hall, and pick up in front of the hall.

Please be on time and pick up by 10:55am.

Masks are still required for students and teachers.

If you are not feeling well, please stay home and take care of yourself.

Sacraments: (IC)

1stCommunion Prep: Next class on, Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:30-7:30pm in the hall. Please be on time.

Youth confirmation prep- Next session will be Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 2:30-5pm in the hall

Symbolon (IC)

We meet, on Mondays, at 7pm and run until 9pm, in the Immaculate Conception Hall. You are welcome to join, You just need to register, so we can order your book, if interested please call Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939.

I guess it starts sometime in high school when those thoughts and ideas begin to take loose form. It's not the same for everyone. What is, actually? But for many those four short years in high school mark the onset of initial thoughts and consideration of career choice. For some, perhaps it's a student's parent whose career influenced the path a high school graduate might choose. For some, a sense of service and a need to make an attempt to make the world a better place drives their decision making. There are those who are convinced they have made the best and only decision possible, throw themselves headlong into the completion of their studies, obtain their degree, only to find out some time later that it isn't providing the fulfillment hoped for. Perhaps other options cross their minds. How many of us have rethought initial career paths? My hand is raised.

It's been a couple weeks now that **Mrs. Toya Peek** and I were participants in an Instructional Support Team meeting involving representatives from the Capital School District. It was during this particular meeting that we were providing updates on the status of one of Mrs. Peek's students. The meeting lasted for about fifteen minutes or so during which time Mrs. Peek offered her insight and discussed her observations of the student's daily performance. When the discussion had concluded, Mrs. Peek left the meeting. Mrs. Peppard, the district liaison between HC and the public sector, asked me if Mrs. Peek was new to Holy Cross. Well, not to revert to the trendy vernacular, but LOL!! "Heavens NO!" I went on to explain that Mrs. Peek and Holy Cross have been besties for years! Nearly, thirty, if not more.

One of our most dependable substitute teachers back in the day, Mrs. Peek was always in demand. If I needed a substitute, I would always ask for Mrs. Peek. Confident, that upon my return, the plans would have been implemented according to the prescription, it was so much easier to walk away at the end of the day previous knowing my students were going to be in her competent hands. I recall our conversations often leading me to ask her why she didn't pursue a degree in Education. She would generally respond that it was a dream of hers, and that one day she would. "I'll know when the time is right and the Good Lord guides me in that direction." A woman of great strength, faith, and determination, Mrs. Peek waited for the Good Lord to give her that nudge. He did. She knew the time was right. That's the key to success for anyone; to wait upon the Lord, and always seek His guidance. Today, and many years later, I am grateful to Mrs. Peek for her devotion to the NJHS, and her duties as Junior High Level Coordinator. She is a true blessing to the countless many.

I know I must sound like the old warped and broken record, but it bears repetition. Devotion and commitment are hallmarks of HC teachers. Early mornings, late afternoons, weekends, nights, and summer days.... I never even have to ask. Take for example....

... the chilly November morning that marked Vocations Day several years ago. T'was windy, too. The trees around the entryway to the gym had dropped their leaves in great number leaving (no pun intended) a bit of an unsightly mess. But; I thought the wind would take care of it, and disperse them hither and yon. Besides it was Fall. Leaves were supposed to be on the ground! Well, leave (again, no pun intended) it to **Mrs. Kimberly Speed!** Because we were having guests arrive later that morning, she was not going to have the front of the gym looking a mess. So, she showed up to school extra early and began the day by sweeping and raking the leaves away. She is perpetual motion, she is perpetual enthusiasm, she is perpetual vim, vigor and passion. Fuzzy describes my recollection of the chain of events that brought Mrs. Speed onto the school faculty, although I knew she had served as a substitute teacher. I never saw her in JH, but I knew she had been a frequent friendly face on the school scene, and was mom to Jordan and McKenzie. It was to be my first year in administration. Mrs. Speed had been slated for a Pre-K classroom. She was so excited! We had gathered at St. Joseph's in Middletown for the Back To School Diocesan gathering when Mrs. Speed somehow learned of a very recent opening in fifth grade. Like she had springs beneath her, she quickly made her way over to Mrs. Rosario and asked if she could have the position. She has been in fifth grade ever since!!! Her liveliness and dynamism dominate the classroom. She is the ever-willing volunteer, serving Student Council, the HSA, and has even coached girls' basketball. How many times have I told her she puts the Energizer Bunny to shame? She just laughs and sprints away....

She had a free period. Father McQuaide and I seized the opportunity to visit the Computer Room and seek out **Mrs. Williams.** During her free period we found her swiffering the computers and tables. "Oh yeah! I want her here!" was my first thought. Mrs. Kate Williams sought out Holy Cross seeking substitute teacher possibilities. It didn't take long before I came to realize the gem we had in our midst. Her flexibility and good humor won me right over! And, I didn't even realize her expertise in technology! She was an excellent sub and was readily available upon need! Somehow, (pardon the foggy details) we learned that she was just THE computer guru and was secretly hoping for a full-time position at Holy Cross. As they say, the rest is history! Father Lentini suggested the concept of the Media Center combining the Library and Computer Room, a door size hole was cut in the connecting wall, Catholic Heart Work Camp carried over the books, and Voila! Before our very eyes we had a Media Center. Mrs. Williams has been with us ever since, bringing her daughter Kaley in tow! Her dedication to our school is highly commendable, her on the spot flexibility and ability to balance all the hats she wears is remarkable.

Baseball has their bullpen and football has their bench....

many centuries.

This Old House. That original Church was built in 352 or so, but did not survive too well for too long — whether due to structural problems, barbarian incursions, or something else — it was deemed needing to be rebuilt. And, so, in 432 A.D. the remains of the original structure were replaced by an entirely new Church; a massive one; one truly befitting the honor of our Blessed Mother... a “major” Church. It was a fifth century makeover of a fourth century Church honoring a first century mother of an eternal God who became incarnate for our redemption.

An Emphasis on Ephesus. Why was this rebuilding (or more likely new construction) done in 432? The timing of this rebuilding and expansion came one year following the Council of Ephesus (431 A.D.) It was at the Council of Ephesus the much of the dogma and doctrine concerning our Blessed Mother Mary was defined. At this Council, famously, Mary was given the title “Mother of God” (or, in Greek, “Theotokos” literally meaning “God bearer”). This title of Mary served to make clear and to affirm the Divinity of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Following this Council, there was a burgeoning movement to honor Mary — and part of that cause the grandiose rebuilding of that first Church dedicated to the Mother of our Lord Jesus.

Away in the Manger. Today, that Church, now a Basilica, still stands on that spot and is deemed as one of the seven great churches of Rome. St. Mary Major was then, and remains now, the largest church in the world dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Located in that Church, of great significance, is a chapel, I believe under the main altar, in which housed the remains of the manger in which Jesus Christ our Lord lay on the night of his birth. Pilgrims from around the world spend time before that holy object (relic) in prayer, reminded of the truth of birth of Savior into the world, and his laying away in that manger, some two thousand years ago

Now and Then. And so, what do we take from this feast? Why do we celebrate this Church and not others? It seems to me that this feast is special in that it traces itself all the way back to early centuries of the church and the intense devotion to Our Blessed Mother that grew from that period. It bolsters the idea that God can guide us in serving him, as he guided that ancient Roman couple, as to what they could do for the church. God guided them not with a roar or a command but rather by a gentle snowfall — pure and virgin like Mary herself — in which He pointed the way for the that man and his wife to serve the Church.

Snow in the Forecast? On this post-snowfall weekend, the spiritual question that may be raised from this ancient part of the Tradition of our Church is this: Where does the snow fall for us in our lives? What does God’s snow outline for us that we may do for the church as one of its members? Where can we build our monuments to God, our places of honor to our Blessed Mother, and our showings and works of faith. To find out, like the couple in the story, we too must pray for God’s guidance – and I think that is the lesson of this event passed onto us by Church tradition. Because, in truth, without faith and prayer we may fail to see the signs that God puts before us.

Yet, if by faith and prayer, we watch for the signs and signals that God gives us — snowfall or otherwise— then we may be able to learn God’s will for us, do His will, and find the outline he laid down for us. We very likely may not be called to build a Basilica, but we certainly can help build the Kingdom. Our Lady of the Snows. Pray for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor