



# 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 CHURCH

May 24, 2020

Ascension of the Lord

holy cross

icc



Ascension  
of the Lord

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

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

**Sacrament of Baptism.** Call the parish 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.

Check out our websites

[holycrossover.org](http://holycrossover.org)  
[iccmaryl.org](http://iccmaryl.org)

- *Read daily reflections by our clergy*
- *Watch Masses from various sources*
- *Find spiritual readings*
- *Read about our latest updates*

Watch the website for the weekend Masses being streamed live by the Diocese. You can also watch the taped Masse each weekend at Holy Cross and/or Immaculate Conception by one of our priests.

Keep praying.

While we are not allowing anyone into the parish offices, you can call and leave messages and we will get back to you.; or, you can email us.

Following the directives of our Bishop, the churches will remain locked until further notice. No Masses, no confessions, no baptisms, no gatherings of any type. Funerals will be graveside only and limited to 10 persons including clergy.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) ending May 10

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$15,640	\$28,200	(\$12,560)
YTD	\$1,223,269	\$1,276,600	(\$53,331)
Needs	\$1,213	\$1,586	(\$373)

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending May 10

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,003
Second	\$575

Thank you for your offering. It is with your continued support and the sharing of your time and talent that the ministries, programs, and activities of Holy Cross and ICC are made possible.

*“Whatever you give to the Lord, He will return to you a hundred fold.”*

**Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time that we cannot gather together at Mass. You can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card. We will call you back. Thank you for your continued support.**

Dear Immaculate Conception Parishioners,

This column I am going to write the gradual re-opening of the Church here at Immaculate Conception, as part of the Church re-opening in Maryland. We are being guided in our re-opening by the guidance given to Pastors by the Bishop of our Diocese, and in concert with executive orders (emergency orders) from the Governor's Office.

**Preface.** I am going to preface my comments by noting a few things. First, no one has been a greater advocate, indeed at times a vociferous advocate, against closing our Church buildings than yours truly. As a matter of fact, our Church here at Immaculate Conception and my other Parish at Dover were among the last Churches in the Diocese to be closed. As you may recall, our doors were open to visits by the faithful after the lockdown period began, and for a few weeks into that lockdown. Ultimately, I was directed to lock the Church buildings, both in Maryland and Dover, and reluctantly, I did. And they have remained locked.

**New Beginning.** I am very happy to tell you that our Bishop has given the green light to begin a phased re-opening of our Churches, and restoration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. The Governor has given general guidelines for the re-opening, and has given the churches of Maryland much leeway in their reopening plans.

**Start Date for Reopening for Private Prayer.** Beginning on **Tuesday, May 26**, Immaculate Conception Church will be open for private prayer, daily, from 9 a.m., through 7 p.m. (except Saturday, when the Church will be opened from 9 a.m. through 2 p.m.). The following are some basic regulations we are asking our Parishioners to abide at this time:

- **Sanitizers and Wipes.** We are right now asking visitors to the Church to bring their own hand sanitizer, or disinfectant wipes. We will ask them to clean their pew appropriately before and afterward, as a way of preparing for the next visitor to that spot — whenever that may be. If we are able to secure a large supply of hand sanitizer, or disinfectant wipes, we will make that available inside (more on that below).
- **Facial Covering.** Following guidance from

our Bishop, he asks that visitors wear masks while in the Church, while noting that children under 2 should not be masked, children under 13 do not have to be masked. Parishioners who are at high-risk (that is, those over 65 and with compromised immune system, or diabetes, or breathing/lung problems) are encouraged to stay home. Likewise anyone who is sick.

- **Spacing.** A social distancing of six feet is expected (except for families and members of the same household), in terms of abiding seating. That being said, we have to be reasonable and expect that people may have to pass by one another on the way in or out — that is not to cause a concern. If that does cause a concern for a person, that person should not come to the Church, which is a public area. In this regard, note that the CDC advises that people should not be at a distance of less than 6 feet for an extended period (i.e., they should not sit together at length, but may wind up passing by one another for a few seconds — that is a reasonable circumstance in any public space).

**How can you help?** Here's something I need to ask for: There is a shortage of disinfectant wipes and hand sanitizer. We need to have these available in the Church (especially, the disinfectant wipes), for our re-opening. We have placed orders for these items but there is a huge lag-time in getting them due to the shortage. If anyone has disinfectant wipes (or hand sanitizer) beyond their needs, we would ask that you drop them off, starting this Tuesday, in the vestibule of the Church (9 a.m.-7 p.m.) or at the Parish Office. Any assistance in this area would be greatly appreciated!

**Basic Principles.** What I expect in all of this is that reasonable people will act reasonably. There is to be no confrontation in God's house. We are all to do our best to make this work. For some people, no measures put in place will be enough to make them feel safe, for others any measures put in place will be deemed too intrusive. For those people, I would encourage, if the current situation makes you uncomfortable being in the Church, then don't be in the Church. We can't accommodate every single person's personal desire.

*(Continued on page 4)*

## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. Pastor  
 Rev. Idongesit Etim Parochial Vicar  
 Rev. Mano Salla Parochial Vicar

## HC CLERGY

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn Pastor Emeritus  
 Mr. Philip Belt Deacon  
 Mr. John Harvey Deacon  
 Mr. Robert McMullen Deacon  
 Mr. Scott Peterson Deacon  
 Mr. Vincent Pisano Deacon

## ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell Deacon  
 Mr. James Tormey Deacon

## 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. I18  
 Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext 122  
 Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123  
 Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director  
 Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135  
 Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## ICC STAFF

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

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8  
 302 674 5787  
[holycrossdover.org/school](http://holycrossdover.org/school)

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

Catholic Education Grades 9 to 12  
 302 697 8100  
[saintmore.org](http://saintmore.org)

Rachael Casey Principal

## MAILING ADDRESS

*St. Thomas More Academy*  
 133 Thomas More Dr.  
 Magnolia, DE 19962

As was noted in the guidance provided by our Bishop: "Individuals are the primary protectors of their own health; during this current situation, there is always risk coming into public spaces. To that end, coming into an open church building carries that same risk. Individuals assume that risk for themselves in these circumstances."

Ultimately, I am trusting in the faithful desire of our people to want come back to the Church and spend time in the presence of Christ.

**Confessions.** Confession times will be posted soon; When Confessions resume, be advised that we do not have access to a fluent Spanish-speaking priest at this time, so Confessions will need to be in English (for our Hispanic community: try your best English, and we'll try our best Spanish, but you have to be able to use some English for us to understand your confession).

- In the confessional, there will be no option of face-to-face confession, **all confession** must be behind the Confessional Screen; that metal screen will be covered with an additional cloth covering on both the penitent and priest side for additional safety. There will be a chair on penitent side, one is free to stand, also.

I am glad to see our Church re-opening, and I am glad to be in the preparation phase of the resumption of Masses which is coming soon.

**Please, I would ask, you to be patient as we work to restore our Parish to fuller operations in the days and weeks ahead.**

**Regarding the Re-Starting of Mass.** Next week's bulletin will detail the process and steps being taken for the resumption of the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lentini  
 Pastor



## PLEASE NOTE THESE GUIDELINES FROM THE DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

Below are some of the guidelines from the Diocese of Wilmington that we are working with. Each parish is different and our parish will be developing plans to accommodate the needs within our parish. Fr. Lenini is working on that with our priests and as he has mentioned in his Pastor's Column, we will be forthcoming with Mass information in next weekend's bulletin. This is all a work in progress, so please be patient as we work out the plan.

Below are some points from the Diocese:

- The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass issued on March 12, 2020 remains in place for the Diocese of Wilmington.
- Parishes should continue to make Masses available to the faithful through such means as internet livestream or recording, ensuring that the faithful may maintain a spiritual connection with their local church.
- Home visits to the sick by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion continue to be prohibited until further notice.
- The Sacrament of the Sick should only be administered in danger of death situations only.
- Those who are symptomatic or who have been exposed to the virus within 14 days are not permitted to enter the church, in accordance with national, state and local health directives. All attendees are asked to check their temperature at home before coming to church for any reason. Likewise, anyone with a persistent cough or who otherwise does not feel well should not come to church.
- Parishioners who are particularly vulnerable (e.g. over the age of sixty, existing heart or lung conditions, diabetes, or otherwise immuno-compromised) are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**, for their own health, to avoid the risk of attending public celebrations of the Church until all restrictions have been lifted.
- Individuals are the primary protectors of their own health; during this current situation, there is always risk coming into public spaces. To that end, coming into an open church building carries that same risk.

(Continued on page 8)

### MASS INTENTIONS

MAY

25 MONDAY  
HC 9 am

26 TUESDAY  
HC 6:30 am  
HC 8 am

27 WEDNESDAY  
HC 6:30 am  
HC 8:15 am

28 THURSDAY  
HC 6:30 am  
HC 8 am  
ICC 7 pm

Janis Beiser  
Howard Rowlands  
For the People

29 FRIDAY  
HC 6:30 am  
HC 8 am

Rosaline deSilva

30 SATURDAY  
HC 8 am  
HC 5 pm

Louise Cavanogh  
Joseph Cusick

31 SUNDAY  
HC 7:30 am  
ICC 8:30 am  
HC 9:15 am  
ICC 11:00 am  
HC 11 am  
HC 1 pm  
ICC 1 pm  
HC 6 pm

Tom Gilson  
Doug Rapsaage  
Dec. Members Cassidy Family  
Marge Messner  
Rosemarie & Tom Natali (LI)  
For the People  
  
Robert Gore, Jr.

(LI = LIVING INTENTION)

### MASS INTENTIONS

While there are no public Masses at this time, our priests will be saying private Masses each day. During their private Masses, the intentions of the day will be remembered. On the weekend, the priests will be saying several private Masses to cover all of the intentions that occur on the weekend. Your loved ones will still be remembered in prayer.

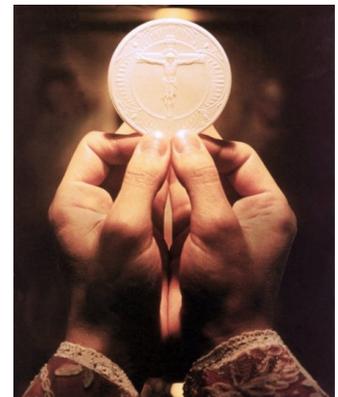
### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



## CEMETERY NEWS

**Flags for Veterans.** Since it is not possible to have our annual Memorial Day Mass and our American flag program in the Gathering Space, the Cemetery Committee placed a flag on all veterans' graves on May 23rd. Donations towards the flags can be made by mailing a check, made out to Holy Cross Cemetery, to the parish office. All donations are greatly appreciated as we honor our deceased military veterans.



## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Does your marriage sometimes feel like each of you speaking but not understanding each other? Take time today to really listen to and understand each other.

## PARENTING POINTERS

Discuss the many different jobs that people in your family do? Which is the most important? Wrong question - since each person has different talents and time. Is it time to reassess who does which jobs?

## HAPPY MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day commemorates the men and women who died while in the military service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. In other words, the purpose of Memorial Day is to memorialize the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We spend time remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home, reflecting on their service and why we have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today.



## PRO LIFE CORNER

- During this difficult time of Coronavirus Disease, abortion procedures continue throughout the U.S. and in Dover. Abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood are classified as ESSENTIAL SERVICES! You can save lives in Dover by praying with Holy Cross and other local church groups on Friday mornings from 9 AM – noon at Planned Parenthood of Dover or by praying at home. If you pray at Planned Parenthood, please follow Governor Carney's Social Distancing Guidelines.
- Also, remember to pray for the most vulnerable and seniors who are most susceptible to the Coronavirus

## RESOURCES IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

- A new webpage has been created on the diocesan website: [cdodw.org](http://cdodw.org): **Resources in Times of Pandemic.** It is a clearinghouse for resources for:
    - Joining Masses On-line
    - Prayer Resources
    - Spiritual Formation
    - Resources for Young Adults
    - Resources for Young People
    - Resources for Children
    - Supporting Parents and Families
    - Recursos en Español
    - About COVID-19
    - Best Practices
    - Mental Health
    - Resources for Pastoral Ministers
- Check it out!



## READINGS FOR MAY 31 PENTECOST

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:1-11

All people heard their own language being spoken by the disciples from Galilee.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:3-7, 12-13

There are many different spiritual gifts but always the same Spirit.

GOSPEL: JOHN 20:19-23

The Lord says to the disciples twice, "Peace be with you," then he says, "Receive the Holy Spirit" and gives them authority.

## SAMARITAN FOOD NEEDS (HC)

The Samaritan Food Pantry is collecting items to help with the great demands being placed on them during this crisis.



Please leave perishable items in the freezer by the Samaritan pick up door and non perishable items can be left there also. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Samaritans also appreciate any monetary donations that have been sent in. Thank you for thinking of your needy brothers and sisters. V

## VOCATIONS

A vocation must be nurtured for a lifetime, not just until ordination or the taking of vows. You can help nurture the vocations of priests, sisters and brothers by praying, listening, and expressing appreciation. A life of service needs support from those served.

*Serra for priestly and religious vocations*

DESDE LA OFICINA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE SANTA CRUZ-DOVER Y LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION- MARYDEL

UN MENSAJE DE OPTIMISMO Y ESPERANZA EN MEDIO DE LA PANDEMIA

Hola mis hermanos y hermanas,

Los extraño mucho y desde mi hogar, deseo enviarles un saludo lleno de alegría y esperanza en estos tiempos de incertidumbre en la que estamos viviendo, pero recordarles que a pesar de todo esta pesadilla que estamos viviendo, tenemos y debemos darle gracias a Dios porque estamos vivos, si es verdad que estamos aislados, muchos sin trabajo, muchos con ansiedad, pero no estamos en un hospital luchando por la vida, si es una realidad, estamos viviendo momentos sin precedentes en medio de una pandemia, que jamás nos hubiéramos imaginado, pero ánimo, no perdamos las esperanzas, ni permitir que el miedo invade nuestro ser, porque el Señor resucitado nos promete estar con nosotros todos los días de nuestras vidas hasta el final de los tiempos.

Pongamos nuestra esperanza en el Cristo resucitado, que el Señor nos de fuerza en medio de la tormenta y que en este tiempo de estar en casa, sea un tiempo de gracia para ayudarnos a forja hogares santos, para que este aislamiento sea un tiempo para ayudarnos a crecer en la fe, nos permita ser mejores personas, mejores esposos(as), mejores padres de familia y sobre todo a ser mejores cristianos.

Invitemos a Jesús a compartir con nosotros en nuestra Eucaristía doméstica y pidámosle que se quede con nosotros, en nuestros corazones, en nuestros hogares y que nos enseñe a descubrir su gracia en medio del aislamiento, de la zozobra en medio de la pandemia.

Que este Tiempo Pascual recordemos que la muerte fue vencida por Cristo y así poder mirar hacia un Pentecostés lleno de esperanza, con más ganas, con más ánimo, con más fe, y con más amor de llevar el Evangelio a los que no saben o no conocen la Buena Nueva

del Resucitado.

De una manera muy especial y porque los quiero ver pronto les pido varias cosas:

1. Sigamos las regulaciones gubernamentales de lavarse las manos con jabón por 20 segundos y frecuentemente, usando mascarillas y observar el distanciamiento social.
2. No abandonen a los más vulnerables de nuestra sociedad los ancianos, los que se encuentran en centro de detención migratoria a los que están solos y abandonados, una oración, una llamada telefónica, un mensaje de texto a los miembros de nuestra comunidad para darles ánimo y esperanza.
3. Oremos por todos los enfermos del coronavirus, a aquellos de luto por la muerte de uno o varios seres queridos y al personal médico y voluntarios que luchan contra el Covid-19.
4. Oremos por nuestros sacerdotes para que el Señor los mantenga sanos y fuera de peligro y puedan regresar nuevamente a las parroquias a guiar a su rebaño con la luz de la esperanza del Cristo resucitado.
5. Ayudémonos los unos a los otros sin perder la Fe, ni la esperanza.
6. Recordemos que el tiempo de Dios es perfecto y saldremos de estos momentos difíciles con más fuerza, con más fe, y con más humildad.
7. ¿Tomemos este tiempo de estar en casa para disfrutar nuestra iglesia doméstica, a redescubrir nuestro yo, a reflexionar sobre cuáles son los designios del Señor para nuestras vidas?

Los extraño mucho y tengo la esperanza de que pronto nos volveremos a reunir como pueblo de Dios, mientras tanto a seguir viviendo la iglesia domestica con amor y esperanza.

Les prometo que seguiré orando por todos ustedes y espero que también oren por mí y por los míos. Los quiero mis hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

Un abrazo desde la distancia  
Arline Dosman  
Directora del Ministerio Hispano

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC, ICC) REGULAR CCD/SRE CLASSES

- All Masses and classes are cancelled at this time. Please continue to check the website or the latest resources that are online.
  - [www.holycrossdover.org](http://www.holycrossdover.org)
  - [www.iccmariydel.org](http://www.iccmariydel.org)

### FROM THE DRE'S DESK: (ICC)

School of Religious Education: If you have not received information for the completion of this school year or have questions, please email Mrs. Alicia at [dre@iccmariydel.org](mailto:dre@iccmariydel.org) or call her office at 410-482-8939. I will get them to you for your child to have Sunday Religious Education at home.

Here are this week's family catechesis education messages from Fr. Rich Jasper (English) and Father Carlos Ochoa (Spanish).

<https://www.cdow.org/familyvideoserries/>

## SRE REGISTRATIONS (ICC)

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020-2021 school year are available on the website or you can email office for them to be sent to you.

Fees are as follows: \$40 per child, not to exceed \$150 per family. This is to defray all costs of books, materials, and supplies.

LAS MATRICULAS: para nuestro programa de formación cristiana de niños en domingo están todavía disponibles en el despacho parroquial, en la entrada principal del templo, y en el internet. Favor de someterlas en lo más pronto posible, con la cobra de \$40 por cada niño, y no más de \$150 cada familia.

## PEER LEADERS (HC)

If you are interested in helping next year with classes and retreats, please email Mrs. Darling at [ldarling@holycrossdover.org](mailto:ldarling@holycrossdover.org). She will keep up with you via Flocknotes.

## REGISTRATION FOR HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Holy Cross School is accepting applications for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Please contact the school. Our website is [holycrossdover.org/school](http://holycrossdover.org/school). Download an application form and mail it into the parish office. You may also call 302-674-5787 x113; please leave your name and phone contact and we will call you back.

A Catholic education is one of the greatest gifts you can give your child, your family. Join us for the 2020-2021 school year!!

## GUIDELINES (CON'T FROM PAGE 5)

- Individuals assume that risk for themselves in these circumstances.
- All liturgical celebrations should observe limitations on gathering sizes and ensure social distancing.
  - a. Attendance at any liturgy or event in the church is limited to 1/3 of normal capacity. This number must not exceed 250.
  - b. Pastors may determine a lower capacity if they feel it necessary for their particular community.
  - c. Members of the same household may sit together, but there should be at least 6 feet of separation otherwise. Gatherings before and after celebrations are prohibited, including ministers greeting the faithful before and after Mass.
- All members of the assembly and all ministers, except the priest-celebrant, are to wear face coverings at all times while in church. The priest-celebrant is permitted to wear a covering during Mass but not required except during the distribution of Communion.
- Signage should be posted reminding parishioners that the CDC advises that a facial covering does not protect one from the virus but can "help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others." Note: the CDC advises that children under age 2, or people whose breathing may be impeded by wearing a facial covering are exempt from wearing a facial covering.

### CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



### YOU MUST WEAR CLOTH FACE COVERINGS IN PUBLIC.

Medical or surgical masks should be reserved  
for health care workers.



[de.gov/coronavirus](https://de.gov/coronavirus) Updated 4/25/2020

There are times in our lives that are permanently ingrained. It is my hope that most are pleasant, even happy memories. But, in all honesty, very few have been fortunate enough in life to have escaped unscathed the less pleasant times. The memory of the events of the past months will be permanently ingrained. I will never forget the global impact of this insidious disease that has robbed and deprived us of everything that we once counted as normal; it has divested us of the freedoms in which we once found great joy. Now, I realize I speak for myself, but I must think I am not alone in my abhorrence for the disorder this microscopic parasite has generated; even to the point of crippling our ability to plan for the future. All we have any real knowledge of is now.

But as an Easter people, confident in the goodness of our God, we go forth in blind faith and certainty that he will never abandon us, never leave us permanently bereft. We pick ourselves up by our bootstraps with the dawn of each new day and we go forth in spite of the hardships that have made our lives so very much different. We find ways to defeat the enemy.

Sign Saturday brought great joy to many. To be able to laugh, and collaborate with colleagues in bringing happiness to our eighth grade graduates was a memory I will hold dear for years to come. We find ways to defeat the enemy.

This would have been a very busy time of the school year for us. End of the year events and activities would have made our school akin to perpetual motion. Touring prospective families, and showing off our school is one of the many things I miss most. It's so easy to sell a product that you believe in. Oftentimes, it sells itself. The children, the faculty and staff; all so welcoming, believing in all that a Catholic education stands for; all of this enables a family to KNOW that they are in the right place and that they have made the best decision for their family.

This past week several of us worked together to create a virtual tour of our Early Learning Center. You know the old saying....if you can't get Muhammed to the mountain, bring the mountain to Muhammed. I guess that's what we did! Unable to host families in our ELC for a Take A Tour Tuesday, we brought the Early Learning Center to the families. We find ways to defeat the enemy.

The video was the creation of Mrs. Jill Zink. Hours and hours were spent in making all this work! We held practice sessions---we edited the dialog---we bounced around all kinds of ideas. And we did all of this in the comfort of our own homes. Virtually, of course!!

I'd like to share that video with you. You will find it on our school website---again, my thanks to Mrs. Zink for her talent and gift for fashioning our website

to be so user friendly for our parents. More importantly though, our school website is a cinch to navigate for prospective parents. All that makes us tick is found on our website. It's the way of the world, check us out online and then give us a call! My thanks to Mrs. Suzanne McGowan, Mrs. Rosanna Zappulo, and Miss Amanda Hauss for representing the Early Learning Center in the crafting of our video. And now... a few tidbits from our video!

Mrs. Zappulo: *"Here in Pre-K 3, we center our beliefs around what I think are 2 important aspects, "Play and our Catholic Faith." As children play, they are developing their cognitive skills....We use the program Stories of God's Love to introduce the children to the Bible as a source for learning about God. We gather around the prayer table each morning and offer a special morning prayer and song. This sets the tone for our day!"*

Mrs. McGowan: *"Academics start to emerge in a structured form in Pre-K 4. We use the program Get Set For School to teach both Reading and Math Readiness Skills. The Handwriting Without Tears program helps children learn how to correctly form letters and numbers. We use weekly themes and letters of the week to structure how we teach these readiness skills following the standards set by the Diocese of Wilmington. Discipline is always a question that parents are curious about. We follow Jesus; He showed us how to be firm, fair, loving, forgiving and merciful. We role model for the children the type of behaviors expected of them in school. Teaching them and showing them how to regulate themselves in different situations. We use the example of Whole Body Listening to show them how they need to behave so that they can get the most out of learning. We teach them to think socially. Showing them how their behavior affects others in the classroom."*

Miss Hauss: *"Kindergarten is my favorite grade because the students come to school every morning excited to learn. They grow tremendously in the course of a school year from learning to problem solve with their friends, tying their shoes and learning how to read. When your child attends kindergarten at Holy Cross they will learn from Saxon Phonics which focuses on introducing a new letter sound each week and progresses in identifying the sound in the beginning, middle or end of a word, weekly reading lists and decodable readers.... Kindergarten will leave the ELC Building with a love for Jesus and ready for First Grade!"*

There's more where that came from!  
[www.holycrossdover.org](http://www.holycrossdover.org)  
 Click on school. Our TTT video is on the left!

Please continue to pray for Holy Cross School where:

- The message of God's life, death, and resurrection is proclaimed,
- Christian community is experienced,
- Service to our brothers and sisters is modeled,
- And worship of God is skillfully cultivated by our dedicated teachers.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

I'd like to honor our humble mascot, the Raven in this week's column.

Let's begin in London.... The Tower of London was constructed by William the Conqueror in the 1070s, and over the past thousand or so years it has been a fortress, royal palace, home to the royal mint, royal armouries, and crown jewels, even a zoo! But for our purposes at Saint Thomas More Academy, we remember it as the infamous prison where Thomas More was jailed for two years prior to his beheading on the green on July 6, 1535, making him a martyr and patron saint of attorneys, civil servants, court clerks, lawyers, politicians, and public servants - not to mention Saint Thomas More Academy in Magnolia, Delaware!

Ravens are considered to be the guardians of the Tower of London, which stands as a symbol of the kingdom. It is rumored that the Crown and indeed Britain would crumble if the ravens were ever to leave. This story originates in Welsh mythology with the tale of Bran the Blessed, king of "the Island of the Mighty." Bran - also the modern Welsh word for "raven" - is mortally wounded in a battle against an Irish king and orders his men to cut off his head and return it to Britain so that it may be buried as a talisman of protection and to ward off invasion. His men do as asked, burying his head on "White Hill," thought to be the location where the Tower of London now stands.

The mythology of the raven carries on. It is seen as a symbol of protection, wit and intelligence, a divine messenger, a guide. King Charles II insisted that the ravens of the Tower be protected, ordering that six birds always be kept on the premises. Over time, there have been a handful of ravens dismissed from service, citing "conduct unbecoming Tower residents." One raven named Grog, after 21 years of service, decided to leave his duty and take up post at a local pub. (I'm proud to say that our STMA Ravens make us proud with their adherence to our Honor Code!) The most recent threat to the protectors of the Tower was in 2013 - and by legend, the kingdom - was when a fox managed a successful attack, killing two, and taking the total number of ravens down to the minimum threshold of six. Never had such a fox attack been rec-

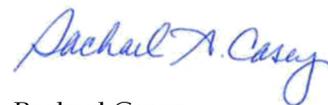
orded inside Tower walls! Today, there are seven ravens (one extra, just in case). The names of our current Tower ravens are Jubilee, Harris, Gripp, Rocky, Erin, Poppy and Merlinia. In happy news, four ravens chicks were hatched last spring in a breeding program at the Tower. These chicks were the first hatchlings of the resident ravens since 1989!

Of course, the connection of the Raven to Saint Thomas More is, on its surface, a gruesome one. It calls to mind the torture and death of a faithful saint. But I believe that we can look upon the raven as a symbol for the best of what Thomas More stood for. Though he acted against the wishes of his king, King Henry VIII, Thomas More ultimately believed he was acting in the best interest of his country and indeed his own faith in God, upholding the supremacy of the Catholic Church's spiritual authority. Though he was a powerful and wealthy man, he acted in such a way that would bring him no earthly glory nor riches. He, instead, sought to uphold his duty to God, and build up his riches in heaven. His words upon mounting the scaffold of his execution were, "I die the king's good servant, but God's first."

Let the raven stand as a symbol of integrity, grace under pressure, leadership, and unfailing faith! I know our Saint Thomas More Academy Ravens certainly stand for those values in their communities, and for that I am thankful. May we all "soar as ravens soar!"

A Raven on the STMA flag pole, watching over our campus and our school family!

Yours in Christ,



Rachael Casey  
Principal

