

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

January 11, 2026

Baptism of the Lord

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

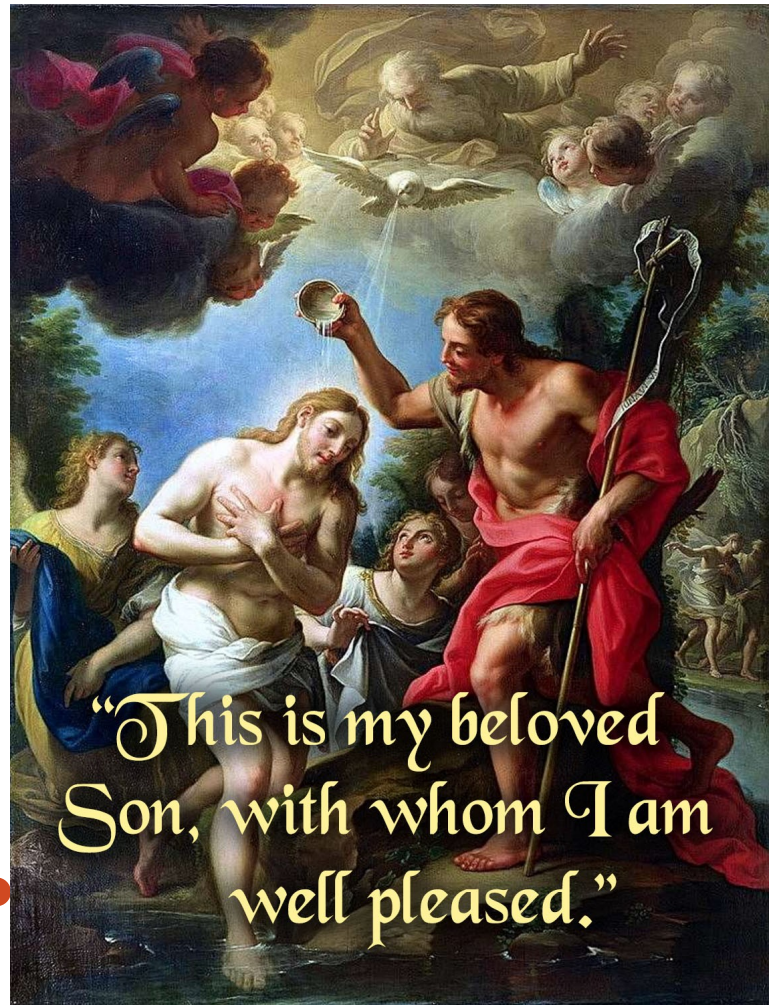
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



“This is my beloved
Son, with whom I am
well pleased.”

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

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

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.

Today the Church celebrates the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This feast brings to an end the season of Christmas. Ordinary Time lasts from the day after this feast to the Tuesday before Lent.

The Church recalls Our Lord's second manifestation or epiphany which occurred on the occasion of His baptism in the Jordan. Jesus descended into the River to sanctify its waters and to give them the power to beget sons of God. The event takes on the importance of a second creation in which the entire Trinity intervenes

Many of the incidents which accompanied Christ's baptism are symbolical of what happened at our Baptism. At Christ's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him; at our Baptism the Trinity took its abode in our soul. At His baptism Christ was proclaimed the "Beloved Son" of the Father; at our Baptism we become the adopted sons of God. At Christ's baptism the heavens were opened; at our Baptism heaven was opened to us. At His baptism Jesus prayed; after our Baptism we must pray to avoid actual sin.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending December 28, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$34,017	\$26,972	\$7,045
YTD	\$695,436	\$690,860	\$4,576
Needs	\$1,829	\$1,738	\$91
Christmas	\$36,147	\$37,500	(\$1,353)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending December 28, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,814
Christmas	\$5,645

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,

A number of years back in the 1990s, when I was teaching here at Holy Cross School, we had a small outbreak of lice in one of the lower grades. Having been a teacher for several years, I was familiar with that small but disgusting problem called head lice. But my favorite moment from that 1990s lice outbreak, comes from recalling one of our parish school parents who was absolutely livid over the lice issue. And what I remember oh, so, well were her words. Words that were yelled in the school to our Principal. And the words of this parent were this: "I can't believe it, lice! And in a Catholic school!" She was readily informed by the Principal that lice have no partiality when choosing amongst Catholics, Jews, Episcopalians, and so on.

Neither is God a respecter of persons, in that sense. Rather He is a God who accepts anyone from any family, any nation, and any race who fears God, does what is right, and lives life according to truths of the Christian call to faith.

Good Buzz on the Three B's. At Mass this Sunday, in the Second Reading, which is taken from the Acts of the Apostles, there is a short commentary, a short sermon if you would, delivered by St. Peter in the house of the Roman centurion known as Cornelius. These comments, these words, were delivered just before St. Peter baptized Cornelius and his family and companions. This reading is a quite appropriate for Sunday's feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This short reading touches on what might well be called the three Bs of the Catholic understanding of Baptism. And what are those three Bs. They are belonging, belief and (good) behavior. More precisely that reading reminds of our to belonging, belief and good behavior, that emanate from Baptism.

Belonging, Belief, and Behavior. This reading from the Acts of the Apostle can be easily broken down into three parts: One dealing with belonging, the second dealing with belief, and a final piece dealing with behavior. So, let's take a look at all of this..

1. **Belonging.** In the reading, St. Peter begins to speak to folks gathered in home of Cornelius the Centurion. That room is very likely filled with both Jews and Roman, gathered together. Looking at the group, St. Peter says: "In truth, I see that God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly is acceptable to him."

The Chosen. So, what does that impartiality of God have to do with Baptism. Well, Baptism is an admission into the household of the God who gave us life. In the Old order, in the old covenant, in the old dispensation, "back in the day," God chose the Jewish people as the Chosen People of God. Anyone who was

born a Jew, belonged, automatically, to the chosen people of God. Non-Jews, known as Gentiles, did not belong. They were automatically excluded from God's covenant and his blessings. Thus, back in the day, back in the Old Covenant, the criterion for belonging to God's people was simply (and only) natural birth. You were either born into the Chosen People or you were not.

A New Order. Then came Christ, initiating a new era and new order. In the new order, in the new covenant, in the new dispensation that has all changed. Now, through Christ, we know that God has no preference, no partiality, for one nation or another, or one people or another. As Peter came to realize, "God shows no partiality. Rather, in every nation whoever fears him and acts uprightly."

Leveling the Playing Field. Thus, Jesus Christ, through the sacrament of Baptism (which he instituted on the cross as blood and water flowed from his side), leveled the playing field of salvation "for us men and for our salvation." In Baptism, we become the people of God, the children of God, equally embraced by God's charity, as were the children of the Old Covenant, in the time Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and those faithful ones who followed for a thousand years.

How Divine! With that playing field now level, another thing has changed: the nature of water of Baptism. The water we are Baptized with doesn't come from the Jordan River, (and thankfully not from Dover's St. Jones' River), nor from anywhere in the natural realm. No. You see, Christ instituted the Sacrament of Baptism from his cross, and it is water that flowed from Christ's side on the cross on that Good Friday, that has become the water of Baptism; thus, our Sacrament of Baptism is of supernatural, Divine, origin.

The Lot of Saint and Sinners. Getting back to the original point, if there is no partiality on God's part, then why is it that some folks do well, and do righteously, in life while others do not. This is because, what happens to someone after baptism -- in regard to whether we turn out to become saints or sinners -- depends not on the presence or absence of God's love for us, but rather on how much we love God and use our free will to do what is right. So, by Baptism, we belong to Christ, whether a saint or sinner in this world... thus we can always return to Him.

2. **Belief.** Baptism is an acceptance of the message sent by God to the people of Israel, the same message announced by

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Richard Kosior	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Sharon Seelig	Records Office, ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I18
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

JAN. 18—2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 49:3, 5-6

God's Servant is a "light for the nations", bringing salvation to the world.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3

Paul is called to be an apostle—one who is sent with the Good News about Jesus.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:29-34

John the Baptist sees Jesus and declares, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world."

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

Sincere thanks for all the donations from the parishioners, community, and the school during Thanksgiving and Christmas. We especially thank the teachers and school parents for the many wonderful school food drives this past year.

Due to your generosity we were able to help the following:

November plus Thanksgiving

381 Families 914 Adults 899 Children

December plus Christmas

297 Families 719 Adults 779 Children

More donations are always welcome. We can always use Hamburger Helper, Manwich, canned goods such as kidney, black, pinto beans, soups, instant potatoes, Brownie Mix, peanut butter/jelly, etc. Thanks for your generosity.

MARTHA AND MARY MINISTRY

The Martha and Mary Ministry invite you to join us to provide solace to the bereaved in our parish. There are many ways that you can serve the Lord and our brothers and sisters during the different time of losing a loved one. We will be providing greeters in the Gathering Space to assist in directing visitors to their seats and handing out worship aids, setting up for repasts and providing baked goods upon request. If you are interested in joining us please contact Lori Christiansen at 302-745-6900 or via email at shera29@verizon.net.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Tune-in this week to meet Salesianum High School students, Anthony Morgan and Shaun Hahn

and learn how they are helping Catholic Charities' Bayard House. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceoseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

KOF C BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus Council 4182 will be serving breakfast next Sunday, January 18th, after the 7:30 and 9:30 am Masses in the Parish Hall. Cost is \$13 Single, \$25 Couple, or \$40 for family. In addition, the council will be conducting a membership drive. All male parishioners 18 years or older are welcome to join.

RACHEL MINISTRY

The Archdiocese of Baltimore is hosting a Weekend of Hope & Healing retreat offering a beautiful opportunity to any woman or man who has struggled with the emotional or spiritual pain of an abortion. Information can be found on the CDOW website.

Date: March 20-22, 2026

Confidential Location: Ocean City, MD area, disclosed after registration

Suggested donation: \$250/person, \$400/couple (scholarships available)

For confidential inquiries and registration, please contact Project Rachel Ministry: Call (410) 625-8491

Text (410) 299-9345

Projectrachel@archbalt.org

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Holy Cross High School Invites You to Join Our Faith-Filled Community!

Applications are now open for the 2026–2027 school year. Located in Dover, Delaware, Holy Cross High School offers a Classical Catholic education rooted in faith, virtue, and academic excellence. Our mission is to form the whole person through rigorous academics and Christ-centered learning.

Please join us for the High School Placement Test (HSPT) on Sunday, January 25, 2026, at 12 PM. This test is an important part of the admissions process, helping us place stu-

MASS INTENTION JANUARY

12 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Skocik & Shaffner Fam. (LI)

13 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Adolf Korosec, Sr.

14 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am James Walters

15 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Mary Rose Durk

ICC 6:00 pm For the People

16 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Josephine Nardone

17 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Msgt. Harry & Fran Hettinger

HC 5:00 pm Ives & Devereux Families

18 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Susan Wick

ICC 8:30 am Louis & Anna Adam

HC 9:30 am Robert & Beverly Bresnahan

ICC 11:00 am Andrew Corbett

HC 11:30 am From the People

ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Jan 11—Jan 17 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of parishioners of Holy Cross.

Jan 11—Jan 17 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for parishioners of Holy Cross.

dents in courses that match their academic strengths and prepare them for success. Register today at www.hchs.org. For more information, contact Christina Klaus, Director of Admissions: cmklaus@hchs.org.

RECENTLY DECEASED

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

- Jane McGinty
- Peter Greg
- Philip Snow
- Jeanne Grill

JANUARY 17/18, 2026

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM	P. Gerard C. Helwig	D. Kaltenbaugh M. King	T. Tiedeman L. Toto
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LECTORS

H. Showell
F. Urick

7:30 AM	L. Lockett R. O'Neill	T. Svienty A. Wyllie	T. Catipay S. Corpuz
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LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM	V. Pepper C. Robinson	J. Salamone A. Siegel	P. Cusatis M. Ford
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LECTORS

S. Crossen
S. Ford

11:30 AM	B. Guzman M. Rivera	M. Richard	A. Sandoval D. Chavez
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LECTORS

F. Mendoza
A. Garcia

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30
AM
J. Moore

LECTORS

T. Woodeshick

11:00
AM
J. Carrow

LECTORS

S. Tucker



HELP WANTED—WE NEED YOU

We are looking for more volunteers to help us bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound of our parish. Call the Holy Cross Parish Office if interested in this ministry.

We can always use more volunteers to help at Mass as an Altar Server, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Communion, or a Lector. If interested please contact the Parish Office at 3020-674-5787.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Jesus came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "So, you men could not stay awake and keep watch with Me for one hour?"
Matthew 26:40

Don't you have at least one hour a week to spend in prayer with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Adoration?
Come signup for Adoration....many hours open.

If you cannot make a commitment with your busy schedule, look at the hours open and come in when you can. Any free time you have to be with our Lord is good for the soul. Keep this option for praying and adoring open in your life.

Contact John Murphy 302-233-1779
or jkm2015@verizon.net for any of the times available listed below:

- Sunday:** 7-8am, 5-6pm, 6-7 pm, 7-8 pm, 8-9pm
- Monday:** 9-10 am
- Wednesday:** 5-6 pm, 8-9 pm
- Thursday:** 8-9 pm
- Saturday:** 5-6 am, 12-1pm, 1-2pm, 7-8 pm, 8-9pm

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE (2026 PROGRAMS)

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 6-8, 2026 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

- **Bautismo del Señor:** Hoy celebramos la fiesta del Bautismo del Señor, con esta fiesta literalmente terminamos el tiempo navideño y regresamos al Tiempo Ordinario, Tenemos que bajar todo de Navidad después de la misa de la 11:30 am –Poner todo en su lugar y empezamos el Tiempo Ordinario el color predominante para este tiempo es color verde.
- **¿Qué es el Tiempo Ordinario?** El Tiempo Ordinario es el período más largo del año litúrgico, dividido en dos partes, que se enfoca en la vida diaria y las enseñanzas de Jesús, celebrando a Cristo en la vida diaria, con el color verde y la Eucaristía dominical como elementos clave, tras Navidad y Pascua, y antes de Adviento y Cuaresma, donde se escucha la Escritura y se aprende del ejemplo de Cristo y los santos. No tiene nada de ordinario. "Ordinario" se refiere a "numerado" u "ordenado" (del latín ordinalis), no a algo "común" o "aburrido". Celebra los aspectos de la vida y ministerio de Jesús: enseñanzas, parábolas, milagros y la misión salvadora de Dios. Dura 33 o 34 semanas.
- **-Primer periodo:** Desde el lunes después del Bautismo del Señor (fin de Navidad) hasta el Miércoles de Ceniza (inicio de Cuaresma).
- **-Segundo periodo:** Desde el lunes después de Pentecostés (fin del tiempo pascual) hasta el sábado antes del primer domingo de Adviento.
- **Fiesta de la Candelaria:** La Fiesta de la Virgen de la Candelaria es una celebración religiosa y cultural que conmemora la Presentación de Jesús en el Templo y la Purificación de María 40 días después de Navidad (el 2 de febrero). Honra a la Virgen María como portadora de la luz (candelas), combinando tradiciones católicas con ritos ancestrales de los países andinos y Latino América. Incluye misas, bendición de velas, procesiones, música y danzas tradicionales, siendo una de las devociones marianas más extendidas en América Latina.
- **Foro Cristiano** Reanudaremos nuestro Foro Cristiano “Conozca Su Fe Católica” el viernes, 9 de enero 2025 de 6-8 de la noche, en el ELC. Quedan todos cordialmente invitados.
- **Voluntarios:** Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Sacramentos:

OCIA: Todos los lunes en el salón de la oficina parroquial. de 5:30-7:15pm

Primera para la Primera Comunión:

Reunion de Padres de Familia: Domingo, 11 de enero 2025 de 2:30 pm en el salón.

Sesión. # 1: 13 de enero, 2026 6:30pm – 7:30 pm en el salón parroquial.

Confirmación 2025: Sesión # 4 domingo 18 de enero de 3-5:30 en el salón parroquial.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Next Class: January 13th (K-4th Grade) and January 14th (5th Grade and Sacramental Prep)

All Classes in the Elementary Building from 6:00pm-7:30pm (please arrive between 5:45pm and 5:50pm so classes may begin on time.

If you still need to register, or have any questions please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Next classes are January 18th and February 1st.

We gather after 9:30am Mass in the Matthew/Mark room. Class will begin at 11:00am and will last until approximately 1:00pm.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Next class: **January 13th** – Foundations of Faith session 14

"Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the ultimate way for your parish or small group to encounter the wisdom of the Catechism and deepen your understanding of the Catholic Faith.

This is a free class; however, the workbook set associated with this program is available for a cost of \$40 (workbook and catechism chart)

Deacon Bob’s Adult Ed Class is every Tuesday at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C

If you have any questions or would like to order the workbook set, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Class— January 11 and January 14 will be cancelled because of retreat on January 10. Our next Confirmation Class will be Sunday, January 25 from 5-6:30 pm and Wednesday, January 28 from 6-7:30 pm. Both classes will be in the Matthew Mark room 2nd floor of the ELC building - this week only. Parents will NOT be invited to this class because of the space constraints.

Youth Group— Our next meeting will take place on Sunday evening, January 11 from 6:45-8 pm in the Luke room, 2nd floor ELC building. All high school teens are welcome to join us for Faith, Fellowship and Food.

CHECK OUT THESE LINKS:

- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/luke-in-50-days-announcement>
- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>
- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>



In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

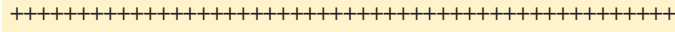
- <https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>



In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

OCIA: Monday nights in Parish Office from 5:30-7:15pm, Please call and join us. We will start up again January 5th.

First Communion Prep: Parent meeting- Sunday, January 11th, 2:30pm in Parish Hall
Session #1: January 13th at 6:30pm-7:30pm in Parish Hall

Confirmation Prep: Session #4- Sunday, January 18th, 3-5:30pm in Parish Hall

Dear Parishioners,

This past week marked our first full week back together as a school community following Christmas break. As we returned, we took time to reflect on the many blessings of the Christmas season and the moments spent at home with our families celebrating the birth of Christ. While this time of rest and joy was meaningful, there was also a great sense of happiness and gratitude felt throughout the building as students and staff reunited and resumed life together at Holy Cross School.

Monday was intentionally calm and steady, allowing both students and teachers the opportunity to ease back into routines and expectations. The quiet nature of the day provided a gentle transition back into learning and helped set a positive tone for the days ahead.

On Tuesday, our classrooms joyfully celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany. Students participated in lessons and activities centered on the Three Kings and the gifts they brought to the newborn Jesus.

Wednesday afternoon, our Religion Committee gathered to finalize plans for Catholic Schools Week later this month. This special week is a time when we celebrate the beauty, value, and mission of Catholic education. Throughout the week, we will honor our parish, our community, our country, our teachers, and our students, all of whom play an essential role in the life and faith formation of our school.

On Thursday, we held our first faculty meeting of the new calendar year. The energy in the room was uplifting as teachers shared ideas, reflected together, and planned for the remainder of the school year. While it is hard to believe how quickly the year is moving, there is still much to look forward to, including our Walk A Thon, the opportunity to host a diocesan eighth grade retreat, the Blessing of our new library, spring concerts, graduation, and many other moments that bring our community together.

Friday provided another calm and productive day on campus as expectations and routines were reinforced throughout the school. It was a wonderful way to close out our first week back and to continue building a strong foundation for the months ahead.

As we move into next week, we will continue to focus on academics, routine, and a smooth transition back into the rhythm of school life. We remain grateful for the many blessings bestowed upon our Holy Cross community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support, prayers, and partnership. May God bless each of you, and from all of us at Holy Cross School, we wish you a joyful, healthy, and faith filled 2026.

Blessings,

Mrs. O'Mara
Principal

Jesus Christ throughout Judea, and indeed to all, beginning from Galilee. What is that message? It was the message of peace. That is why Christ is called the Prince of Peace, and why we say at Christmastime, "peace on earth." But let me clarify something, this message of peace we hear from Christ, and hold in belief, is often confused by people. You see, the message of peace, peace on earth, etc. is not, is not, is not, peace in the sense of the opposite of war. Nor is it peace in the fuzzy, groovy, kumbaya sense.

Give Peace a Chance. No, the peace of Christ is something quite specific: it refers to the peace between disobedient mankind and God. The relationship between man and God was ruptured by the original sin of Adam, and damaged further by not heeding the law and the prophets during the Old Covenant. There was a breach, a disquiet, between man and God, and Christ healed it, through his coming into the world, through his good works, through his salvific death on a Cross and through his resurrection. Jesus Christ is the peace treaty between God and man, and so we hold that idea of peace in our belief.

Man in the Mirror. And the good news is that this message of God is addressed to us; and we should rejoice to know this message, and to understand its implications, and to live it out in our daily lives. Thus, it is not enough simply to count ourselves as children of God, we must also endeavor to know and live by this message of peace. God addressed this message not just to people 2,000 years but to us today, to us as we sit here, to us in the morning when we arise and look in the mirror.

3. Behavior. Scripture says that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; ... he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil." Those who are oppressed by the Devil, who have yielded to his temptations to act against God and his teaching, find themselves behaving in ways that are not good nor Godly. But if we find ourselves in that spot, we can resist that bad behavior.

Neutralize the Prince of Lies. Like Jesus, we too were anointed in Baptism with the Holy Spirit and with power. This allows us to be able to do good and do right. Moreover, if we use our belonging to Christ, and our belief in Christ, in our lives, not only will we behave in a rightly and Godly manner, but by our example, we will evangelize. By that evangelization, we can also help those who are oppressed by the Prince of Lies, the Devil, to find their way back.

You're in the Army Now! To be clear, our Baptism was not a decoration, a prize or a reward, it was a commission. We were drafted into the army of the Lord. So, onward Christian soldiers! Onward! For in Baptism we were commissioned, and we remain commissioned, to be members of Christ's mystical body. That is to say, that we are not just to look at Christ and admire Him, like we might do for some hero, or some athlete, or some leader. No, no, no! We are not called to be admirers of Christ; we are called to be followers. We are called to be Christ's arms, his hands, his legs, his feet, his ears, his eyes and his mouth in this world. We are called to be imitators of Christ, to live Christ-like lives on this earth, and increase the flock.

And holy Hannah, that is a daunting task. But fear not!

Because God empowers us through Baptism.

He empowers us with His Holy Spirit.

He empowers us as we go about our Christian duties.

He empowers in our sense of belonging, belief and behavior.

Never Alone. And in those three B's, God wants us to earn three A's – and he's checking the report cards to see how we're doing. Yikes! That sounds scary but fear not! Fear not! Fear not! For God himself is with us. In this world, He is with us from the days of our youth to the days of our old age; so, we need not fear the enormity of the challenge before us – for we are baptized. And because we are baptized, we are not alone, we are never alone. A faithful Christian is always in the company of God, and with God all things are possible.

So, belong, believe and behave, and live your Baptismal call to holiness... live the life that God calls you to. And if we can all do that, then perhaps you and I, and the faithful of Jesus Christ, can change the world!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lentini, Pastor