

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 12, 2025

Baptism of our 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

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

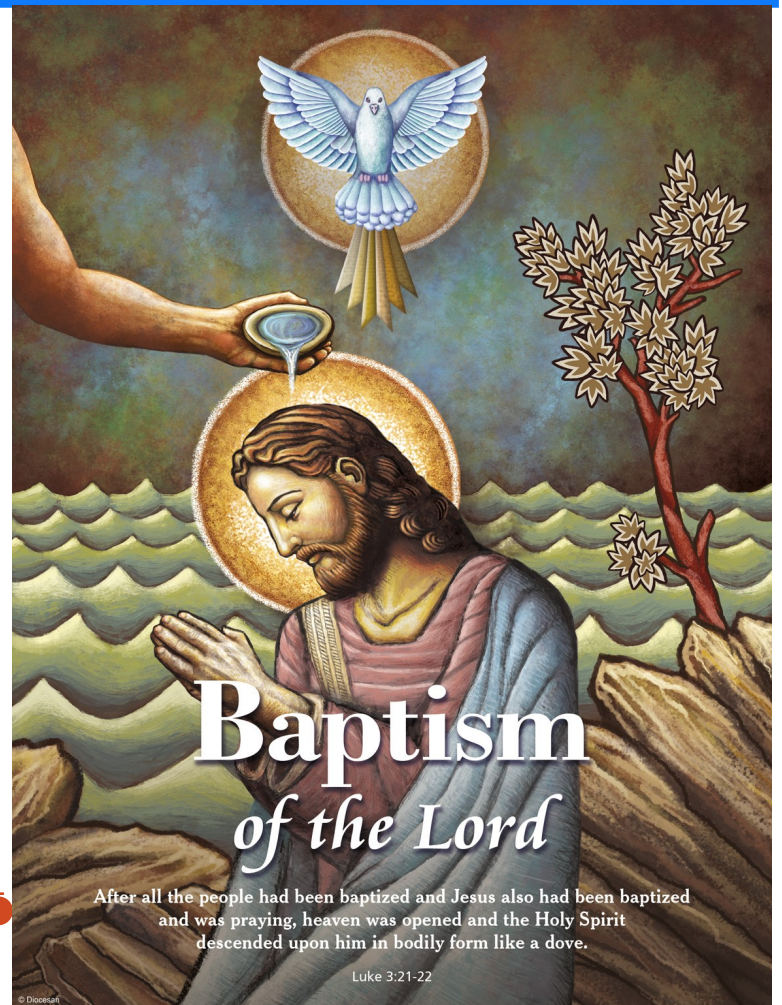
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



Baptism of the Lord

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

Luke 3:21-22

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

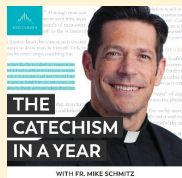
parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

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.

Adult Education Opportunities



<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/biv-espanol-registration>



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending December 29, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$37,991	\$27,630	\$10,361
YTD	\$689,704	\$702,356	(\$12,652)
Needs	\$1,502	\$1,775	(\$173)
Christmas	\$34,308	\$36,000	(\$1,692)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 29, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,569
Christmas	\$5,455

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,

This year, 2025, is what is known as a perfect square year; this means the square root of the year's number yields a whole number. Thus, the square root of 2025 is 45. This makes 2025 the first perfect square year in 89 years (the last one being 1936). The next perfect square year will be 2116 when I will be the ripe old age of 155. With this in mind, the question arises: what can be more perfect than a perfect square year? The answer is a perfect square year that begins with snow!

Light, Snow. And yes, we began 2025 with a hum-dinger of a snowstorm. As I write this on Sunday, January 5, my hope is to go to downtown Dover on Monday evening after most of the snow has fallen. I want to stop at Loockerman Street at the corner of State Street and get some photos of the esplanade of illuminated Christmas trees amidst the newly fallen snow that line that street between City Hall, the library, and the old Post Office.

Light of the World. Dover has one of the most beautifully illuminated main streets at Christmas in all of Delaware. Seeing it in the midst of a snow-covered roadway and sidewalks is even more stunning. The lights of Dover remind folks that the Light of the World, Jesus Christ, was born. It is a great sight to see on the actual day of Epiphany (January 6).

Delightful Snow. So, while snow provides many headaches, traffic snarls, and causes the elimination of milk, bread, and toilet paper from supermarket shelves, let me say that I abjectly find delight in snow. I hope that many of you had a chance to appreciate this first snow of the new year. To use some 1960s vocabulary, snow is groovy.

And now back to our regular schedule Pastor's Column – on the subject of this Sunday's Feast that ends the Christmas season: The Baptism of the Lord.

The Beatles In the 1970s – and into the early 1980s – fans of the Beatles constantly hoped for a Beatles reunion. In 1978, the Church got John Paul (as our Pope), but Beatles fans still awaited John Paul – and George and Ringo reunited. Precursory events that spurred that hope were many, primarily in the form of music industry gossip. Reunion-mania hit fever pitch in 1979, when the September 21st front page of The New York Post screamed the headline, "The Beatles are Back," with a subhead telling readers: "Fab Four Reunited for big U.N. concert in New York." Oh, the thrill of it all! Oh, the joy! But, as Lu-

cy pulled the football away from Charlie Brown so many times, the Beatle's football, so to speak, was pulled away from me and many. Yep, it turns out that the story was wrong... 100% wrong. And so, on September 22nd, 1979, I, along with many Beatles fans, found our hope unfulfilled. But ob-la-di-ob-la-da, life went on!

About the Supremes Being Together. Now, while that Beatles reunion never happened, another musical reunion of note did happen just a few years later. Diana Ross and the Supremes had disbanded in 1969. This group, Motown's biggest success of the 1960s, went their separate ways following their last #1 hit, "Someday We'll Be Together." That chorus of "Someday We'll Be Together" sounded to fans like a promise of sorts. It resounded like General Douglas MacArthur's promise of "I shall return" as he left the Philippines in 1942 upon the arrival of an overwhelming Japanese invasion force. Just as MacArthur did return to trounce the forces of imperial Japan, Diana Ross and the Supremes likewise re-grouped and returned -- for a Motown Special in the mid-1980s. It was a pop-culture event of events. The group appeared with other Motown stars and then parted again after once more singing, "Someday We'll Be Together," ostensibly for the last time. Nonetheless, hope was fulfilled; unlike The Beatles, we got to hear, see, and witness The Supremes back together.

About the Supreme Being, Together. This Sunday, the Universal Church ends its celebration of the Christmas season as it observes the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. That event, that Baptism of the Lord, marks the end of Jesus' "hidden years" from age 12-30 and simultaneously marks the beginning of his three-year public ministry and life. It also brings us a reunion of sorts: not a reunion of the Supremes but of THE Supreme... the Supreme Being, that is! The Gospel passage we hear at Mass this weekend resounds in the ears of our faith like the best of any of the Supremes' hits of the 1960s (except this passage is in theophanic, not stereophonic, sound):

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." (Luke 3:21-22)

A Divine Scene. In this scene at the Baptism of the Lord, (1) we hear the voice of God the Father, (2) we see the descent of God the Holy Spirit, and (3) we witness the Baptism of Jesus (God the Son, in-

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Sharon Seelig	Records Office, 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
 Maryland, 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

2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JAN 19)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 62:1-5

God is filled with joy at us, just as a bridegroom is filled with joy at his bride.
 SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-11

The Spirit's gifts are allotted to everyone just as the Spirit chooses.

GOSPEL: JOHN 2:1-11

A wedding feast runs out of wine. A huge problem, you may think, but Jesus has the last word.

SAMARITANS

The Samaritans are in need of to work our outreach hotline. You work from your own home to vet the calls coming in to the Samaritans for help. You do not use your own phone number, rather a cell phone that is connected to the Samaritans. If interested, please call the Holy Cross Parish Office to leave your name and contact information please.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of May 2-4, 2025. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with grief and loss from abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Bernardo-Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by April 18.



MONDAY MTGS ON THE BIBLE

/we are viewing and discussing From Genesis to Jesus, based on a book by Scott Hahn and presented by Matthew Leonard, giving an overview of how to best understand the Bible and the relationship to which God calls us. We meet in Luke's room in the ELC Monday mornings at 9 am. All are welcome.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all married couples in the Diocese of Wilmington to the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on World Marriage Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 1:00pm at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Those celebrating significant anniversaries (5-year increments) - 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or any anniversary beyond 50, will receive a special certificate from the Bishop. Reservations are needed, no matter what the anniversary year. Reservations are required by February 4, 2025.

Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass. Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing OMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – <https://cdowcym.wufoo.com/forms/zdx6q1g0hx3jsm/>

PURSE BINGO:

Save the Date! **March 22, 2025** for our fundraiser to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp in June. More details to follow.

SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Knights of Columbus Council #4182 will be holding a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, January 18 in the

MASS INTENTION JANUARY

13 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	John Alden Kraft
14 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Mike Emig
15 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Millard Seams
16 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Josephine Nardone
IC 6:00 pm	For the People
17 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Virginia Crews
18 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Fran and Harry Hettinger
HC 5:00 pm	Ernst and Haxton Family
19 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Carmen Campanicki
ICC 8:30 am	Alma & Calvin Smith
HC 9:30 am	Mike Emig
ICC 11:00 am	George P. Warren, Jr.
HC 11:30 am	LI Fr. Brennan Ferris
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

Jan. 12 – Jan. 18 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for Theodore Morris.

Jan. 12 – Jan. 18 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for LI Belt and Cutrona Families.

Parish Hall from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. The proceeds from this will be used to support Pro-Life programs such as Delaware Right to Life & New Day Pregnancy Care Center.

Dinner will include Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, dinner rolls & dessert. Take-out will be available.



**Spaghetti
Dinner**

Single \$13
Couple \$25
Family (4 or more) \$40

JANUARY 18/19, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. MacLeish
M. MacLeish

M. Sirolli
N. Sirolli

J. Cutrona

LECTORS

D. Kilby

7:30 AM

A. Fischer
J. Fischer

L. Lockett
W. Thomas

L. Thomas
S. Corpuz

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM

K. Kelly
B. Richardson

G. Richardson
J. Salamone

B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

C. Parks
C. Petka

11:30 AM

A. Cisernos
C. Garcia

B. Guzman

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

D. Smith

8:30 AM

LECTORS

E. Cramer

L. Schlaupitz

11:00 AM

LECTORS

L. Spule

If you would like to be a part of our ministry team as an altar server, lector, or extra-ordinary minister of Holy Communion, please contact the parish office. We would love to have more volunteers.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 14 - 16, 2025 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.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Adorers needed! Do you have an hour a week to spend with our Lord in the Adoration Chapel? We are so blessed at Holy Cross to have the ability to spend time with Christ in the Eucharist. If you look at other parishes in our Diocese, they may have an hour a week, or a day a week to Adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Here at Holy Cross, we have 16 hours a day, seven days a week. Unfortunately, we are not filling all these hours. We should never leave our Lord alone... Most Saints spent an hour or hours a day in Adoration. Please consider your time. An hour a week. Is this too much? For more information, call, text or email John Murphy for a time convenient for you. 302-233-1779, jkm2015@verizon.net

QUOTE: "Each time you approach the Blessed Sacrament remember that Jesus has been waiting for you for twenty centuries for this personal visit from you." (St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei)

SUNDAY

7 am, 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY

5 pm

TUESDAY

4 pm

SATURDAY

5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 11 am,
12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm 7 pm, 8 pm

FAITH BUILD WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Holy Cross will be participating in the 2025 Faith Build with Habitat for Humanity. This opportunity is coming and if anyone would like to donate to the home, please send your donation to Holy Cross and please include "Holy Cross" on the memo?

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE AT HOLY CROSS

LADIES: Would you like to give a gift of prayer for our Priest, specifically Fr. John Enoumu? We are still in need of additional sisters to give:

One Holy Hour One Day a Week

One Priest One Heart of Prayer

MEN are welcome and encouraged to join this ministry as substitutes.

PICK UP A PAMPHLET IN THE GATHERING SPACE AND contact: Delizabeth Diaz-Martinez -- email: 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

- **Feliz Año Nuevo 2025:** Que este nuevo año nos llene de esperanza, buena salud, paz en nuestras familias y en nuestro mundo, amor, prosperidad y abundantes bendiciones.
- **Bautismo del Señor:** Hoy celebramos el Bautismo del Señor con esta fiesta literalmente concluimos el tiempo navideño y regresamos al Tiempo Ordinario, Tenemos que bajar todo de Navidad después de la misa de la 11:30 am –Poner al TO que es color verde.
- **Foro Cristiano:** Reanudaremos nuestro Foro Cristiano “ Santos y Camino a la Santidad” el viernes, 10 de enero 2025 de 6-8 de la noche, en el ELC. Quedan todos cordialmente invitados.
- **Fiesta de Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria:** El domingo 2 de febrero celebraremos la Fiesta de la Candelaria. Los que fueron premiados con el niño de la Rosca serán los anfitriones, por favor hablar con la Sra. Fabiola Cebrero de Gómez o con cualquier miembro de la Junta Directiva para coordinar que va a traer para la celebración. La Candelaria es una fiesta popular celebrada por los católicos, que celebra la Presentación de Jesús en el Templo, la Purificación de la Virgen después del parto y la Virgen de la Candelaria, advocación mariana aparecida en Tenerife (Islas Canarias) en el siglo XV. Tiene lugar el 2 de febrero. Generalmente se pasa al primer fin de semana de febrero.- se festeja exactamente 40 días después de Navidad -es decir, el 2 de febrero- y es debido a que, en ese día, la Virgen se purificó después del nacimiento del niño Dios y llevó candelas a la Iglesia para que estas fueran bendecidas. Este era el festejo original, sin embargo, en la época del Virreinato llegó a México y Latinoamérica y el día de la Candelaria coincidió con la temporada de siembra que iniciaba el 2 de febrero y se festejaba con exquisitos tamales como platillo principal.
- **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
- **Peregrinos de Esperanza:** “El Año del Jubileo 2025 y el tema escogido por el Santo Padre es “Peregrinos de Esperanza ¿Qué es un jubileo?” Jubileo” es el nombre que se da a un año establecido como tiempo especial para renovar una bien fundamentada relación con Dios, con el pEl Jubileo se abre para que a todos les sea dada la esperanza, la esperanza del Evangelio, la esperanza del amor, la esperanza del perdón para con el prójimo y con toda la creación. La puerta de la esperanza se ha abierto de par en par al mundo "Hay esperanza para cada uno de nosotros. Pero no olviden, hermanas y hermanos, que Dios lo perdona todo, Dios perdona siempre. No lo olviden. Y esa es una manera de entender la esperanza en el Señor". El Papa Francisco volvió a reiterar este punto fundamental de su Pontificado durante la santa misa de Nochebuena este martes 24 de diciembre de 2024, tras haber abierto la Puerta Santa en la Basílica de San Pedro e inaugurado el Jubileo Ordinario de 2025”. De la homilía de Nochebuena del papa Francisco.Somos Iglesia, Somos parroquia, somos comunidad, somos familia en camino al jubileo. Como comunidad oremos y seamos peregrinos de esperanza para el prójimo.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Sacramentos:

Primera Reconciliación:

Sacramento: El sacramento de la Reconciliación será e sábado, 18 de enero en la Santa Cruz, en Dover a las 10:30 de la mañana.

Confirmación 2025: Sesión # 4 domingo 12 de diciembre de 3-5:30 en el salón parroquial.

La hoja de los padrinos entregarlos el 1 de enero .comuníquese con Alicia en la oficina parroquial llame al 410-482-8939 o por correo electrónico a dre@iccmaryl.org

Formación de Catequistas: Domingo, 12 de enero de 12-2 PM en el salón de conferencia de la oficina parroquial.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Next class: January 26, 2025

Please arrive between 2:45-2:55 to be on time and not disrupt classes. Bring textbook, snack and a pencil. Kindergarteners bring bookbag, crayons, safety scissors, glue sticks and textbook.

Grades K-7 in the Elementary Building, drop off at double doors near school office. Pick up, parents walk through those same doors, pick up child(ren) and exit doors past bathroom. Second Floor students will be sent down to siblings on the first floor for easier pick up.

Grade 8 in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office Building C, second floor, students with siblings at the elementary building will be walked over to elementary building for pick up.

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith)

Next Class :January 12, 2025 and then again on January 26.

Matthew/Mark room in the Parish office, 2nd floor building C. This program engages the family, whether it be parents with K-8 children, or a family who wants to enter the Catholic church and receive the sacraments of initiation together hand in hand. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences. Registration forms can be found at: <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

Deacon Bob's Adult Education – Class scheduled to be on January 14! “The Wild Goose Series”. This series is an invitation for Catholics to make a more profound, life-giving relationship with the Holy Spirit.’ “The gift of the Holy Spirit is not merely something reserved for Confirmation. The Spirit desires a relationship with us that will take us on the greatest adventure imaginable: a journey to the very heart of God. The Holy Spirit desires to be present to us in a manner that brings light out of darkness, freedom out of bondage, order out of chaos and life out of death. Come Holy Spirit!” Classes Tuesday at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C. All are welcome, this is a free class. No workbooks are available for this series. If you have any questions, please contact tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122 for Tammy.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Make Up Class:

Since our make up class had to be cancelled, please watch your email for updates as to when

we will be making up the missed classes. Once a plan is decided, you will receive notices. Thank you for your understanding.

Kerygma Review Class:

You will be notified when the next class will take place

Confirmation Retreat:

Teens are reminded we will gather January 12 for 7:30 am Mass. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us - Please pray for our candidates, peer leaders and adults as they travel to Malvern Retreat House for Confirmation Retreat.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Rosary in a Year by Ascension Press

If you've ever struggled to build a habit of prayer, this podcast is for you. In Ascension's Rosary in a Year podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life. By starting small and adding on over time, listeners will find themselves falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world.



Listen to discover....

- *How to build a daily habit of prayer*
- *How to form a relationship with Jesus and Mary*
- *The Biblical foundations of the Rosary*
- *How to meditate with sacred art (visio divina), saint writings, and scripture (lectio divina)*
- *The power of Mary's influence in your life*
- *...and more.*

Follow this link for more information:
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

ICC Religious Education:

Sacraments:

First Reconciliation:

Sacrament: Saturday, January 18 @ Holy Cross, Dover at 10:30am

Confirmation Preparation: Session #4 Today, Sunday, January 12th at 3pm-5:30 in the Parish hall.

Sponsor sheets were due January 1st

First Communion: Parent Meeting, January 21st @ 7pm in Parish hall or January 26th @ 2:30pm in Parish Hall
Parents for first Communion, must attend one of these meetings.

Dear Parishioners,

This past week, we joyfully welcomed our students back to campus after a blessed and restful Christmas break. The halls of Holy Cross came alive with the sounds of laughter and storytelling as students eagerly shared their holiday experiences with classmates and teachers. From cherished family traditions to the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas morning, these stories remind us of the beauty and joy of the season. What a wonderful way to begin the second half of our school year—by coming together as a community rooted in faith and fellowship.

As we transitioned back into our routines, we also celebrated the final days of the Christmas season. This Monday, we will guide our students into the season of Ordinary Time, helping them understand its significance within the liturgical calendar. Ordinary Time is a season that invites us to grow in our daily discipleship, reflecting on the teachings of Christ and applying them to our lives in meaningful ways.

This reflection ties beautifully to our diocesan schools' theme for the year, "We Walk by Faith." Each month, we focus on one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in January, our attention turns to fortitude. Fortitude calls us to stand firm in our faith, even in the face of challenges. As we teach our students about this vital gift, we encourage them to embrace courage—not only to stand up for themselves but also to live boldly as witnesses to the truths of our Catholic faith.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the many opportunities that await us. Next week, our Junior High students will participate in a CPR training course, equipping them with essential life-saving skills. We will also welcome prospective families for another school tour. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about our school, please encourage them to contact us at (302) 674-5787. Sharing the mission of Holy Cross and introducing future Crusaders to our community is always a joy.

Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this new chapter of 2025. Together, as a community of faith, we look forward to all the blessings and opportunities that lie ahead.

May God bless you and your families,

Mrs. O'Mara

carate) in the Jordan River. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – God in the fullness of the Trinity – in one moment in Salvation history! It is a reminder to us of that beautiful truth and mystery divinely revealed to us by Christ: That there is but one God (unity) in three Divine persons (trinity). On that day, in that way, hope was fulfilled: God manifested himself palpably to our world as a Trinity at the outset of Christ beginning his saving work.

I Hear a Theophany. The palpable presence of God when he appears in this world, especially as expressed in scripture, is known as a “theophany.” Theophany is a \$50 word that means the experiencing of God in this world. It is on that basis that in the Orthodox tradition, this Feast day is called (take a deep breath) “The Feast of the Holy Theophany of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.”

Now Appearing. There are many examples of theophany in scripture; God spoke with Adam and Eve, he appeared to Moses in the Burning Bush, he led the people of Israel as a Pillar of Fire, his voice revealed the Ten Commandments, he came during the time of the Judges as a powerful storm, etc. But a theophany of God that emphasizes His Trinity is rare. The Baptism of the Lord is the best known of those moments, though there is also a famous passage in the Old Testament that is built around a theophany of the Trinity, namely Genesis 18:1-2:

“The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oak of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: ‘Sir, if it please you, do not go on past your servant.’”

Ain’t Nothing Like the Real Thing. But this theophany we hear about in today’s scripture of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit at the Baptism of the Lord makes God’s presence about as full, clear, and real as it can be. If the Epiphany (last week) made Jesus known to the world, then it is the Baptism of the Lord that makes it manifest that Jesus is Divine, he is the Christ, he is the promised Messiah, and he is God the Son, incarnate.

Baptism of the Lord. And so, in this profound moment –the Baptism of our Lord by John the Baptist in the Jordan River– Christ begins his Divine ministry and mission to redeem fallen man, to bring salvation and hope to a weary world, and to heal the divisions between God and man caused by sin. He receives a Baptism of Repentance – which he, in truth, doesn’t need. But he receives that Baptism in the Jordan River to show mankind that it needs to embrace repentance and turn back to God. He does this as our Savior, with the Father and the Holy Spirit present and approving, one God, forever and ever! Later, at the Cross, when Blood and water flow from Christ’s side at the crucifixion, he will take this concept of Baptism and replace the water of the Jordan River with the saving water that flowed from himself. And He thereby remakes and elevates Baptism from a sign of repentance to a cleansing Sacrament that wipes away the taint of original sin and gives us a beginning in the life of grace.

Supreme Hope. And so, now, at the end of this Christmas season, we have seen Christ born (December 25), made manifest to the world on the Epiphany (January 6), partaking in a Baptism of Repentance (of which he has no need); and preparing to begin his public ministry. Reflecting on all of this and pondering it in our hearts, we are filled with a sense of hope imbued into us by the truth of this Christmas season. It is a hope that, unlike the Beatles, who would never “Get Back” together, our God will never abandon us. And it is with that blessed hope that we are able to look to Heaven, and look to the Saints – our brothers and sisters in Christ – and say with prayerful hope, and with a Supreme faith, “Someday we’ll be together!”

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor