

# 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 18, 2026

2nd Sunday Ordinary Time

holy cross

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm  
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm  
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

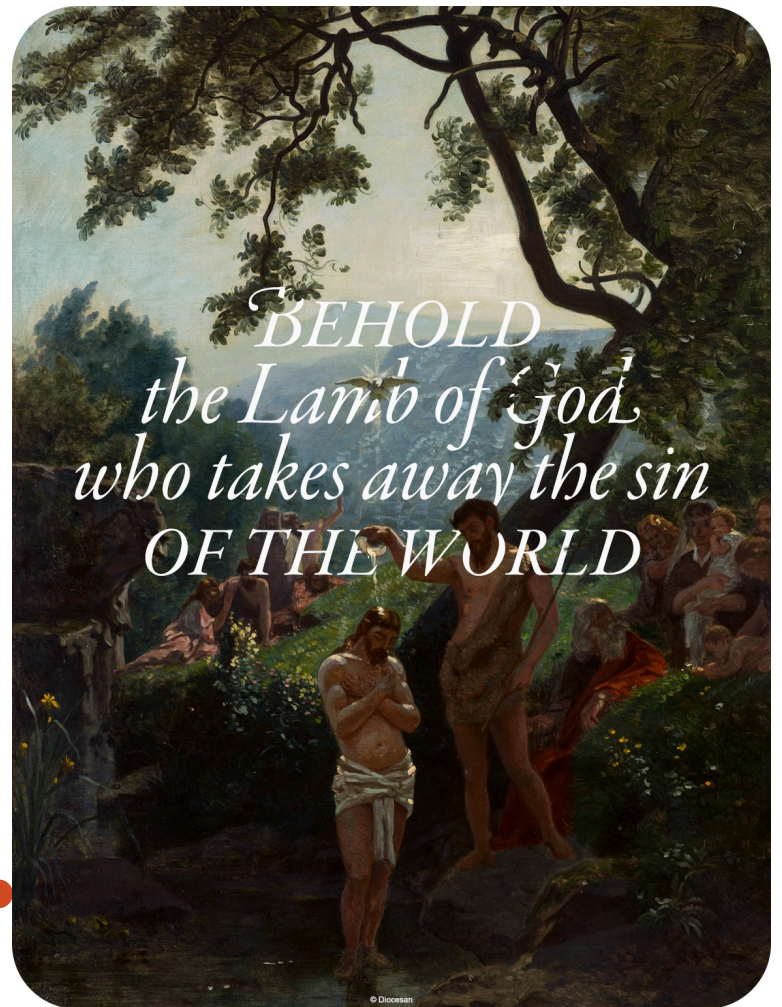
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am  
Wednesday – 8:15 am  
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



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.

### THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to the Samaritan Given Tree. This money will be used to assist those in need in our parish, our school, and our community in 2026. These donations help us help others!! Your generosity is truly appreciated.

### TAX LETTERS—HOLY CROSS

Holy Cross Parish will email tax statements to everyone we have an email address for in our Parish Data System. These will go out by February 1. Emails come from the following site: [notifications@ondemandmail.com](mailto:notifications@ondemandmail.com). If you don't see an email, please check your spam folder.

If you don't have a current email on file with us, you can call the Parish Office to request a tax letter be mailed or give us an email address so we can send you one. Thank you.

### TAX LETTERS—IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Please call the Immaculate Conception Office if you wish to receive a tax statement.

### WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending January 4, 2026

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$27,997	\$27,500	\$497
YTD	\$723,433	\$718,360	\$5,073
Needs	\$1,486	\$1,738	(\$252)
Christmas	\$36,407	\$37,500	(\$1,093)

### WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 4, 2026

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,981
Christmas	\$2,326

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 Parishioner,

Before I start this bulletin's Pastor's Column, on behalf of my brother Priests and myself, let me extend a word of thanks. I want to sincerely thank the many parishioners who generously gave Christmas gifts and cards to us as your priests. Please note that your generosity and kindness are greatly appreciated. Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes are always full of good Christmas spirit, and this Christmas season is no different! As I say every year, thank you for the many cookies, cakes, pies, and chocolates that came over to the rectory; as you can see, I am wearing them!

—

In recent years, I have been asked by various folks in our parish communities at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception about the Church's proscription of "servile work" on the Sabbath (Sunday). Often, these folks are concerned that they are doing servile work on the Lord's Day and are placing themselves in sin, or they are causing someone else to do servile work on Sunday and are likewise sinning. There is, at times, a level of over-analysis and scrupulosity on this matter that is troubling, and a bit OCD for my taste. So, I want to use this column to talk about the meaning of avoiding servile labor on Sunday, its origins, and what the Church teaches.

**Sabbath: Its Genesis in Genesis.** Where does this proscription against servile labor on the Sabbath find its origin? Like a centerfielder trying to catch a strongly hit home run, it goes back... back... way back. It starts in the book of Genesis, where we find God creating everything. On the first day he creates night and day; on the second day, the sky and the seas; on the third day, the land and the vegetation; on the fourth day, the stars, the sun and the moon; on the fifth day, sea creatures, fish and bird; on the sixth day, animal life and man; and on the seventh day, he rested.

**Meanwhile, in Exodus.** That seventh day — the day when God rested — became identified as the Sabbath. However, in Genesis, that day was never identified as the Sabbath, but by the time of the Book of Exodus, the term Sabbath is definitely in use and can be found in use by the Hebrews (the Jewish people) throughout that book. The Sabbath was observed from dusk on Friday to dusk on Saturday. This was set into concrete when God gave Moses the Commandments. As a matter of fact, the Commandment concerning the Sabbath has the lengthiest description of any of the Commandments. In Exodus 20:8-11, in the midst of relating the Ten Commandments, God gives the commandment regarding the Sabbath in these words: *"Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the*

*seventh day is a sabbath of the Lord your God.f You shall not do any work, either you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your work animal, or the resident alien within your gates."*

**What is Work?** You can't do any work? What do you do on the Sabbath? Well, in Leviticus 19:30, God says, "Keep my sabbaths, and reverence my sanctuary." So, a day of rest and a day of worship are certainly commanded here. But coming to the question that people have asked me about: "What constitutes work?" Is cooking a meal work? Is making your bed work? Is cleaning out your sock drawer work? Is looking for my McDonald's gift cards work? Is (gasp) driving to the McDonald's drive-thru work?

**A 39-Step Program.** Well, short answer, it's complicated. The Hebrew word for work was "melakha," and it doesn't correspond to our concept of work today. It really dealt with the element of "creation." Anyway, over time, Jewish scholars and Rabbis defined 39 things that constitute work, and one of which kind of qualifies all the rest. What are these 39 things? They "melakha" (work) dealing with items in four areas: bread-making (food), clothing, animal hides, and construction. Deep breath, and here are the 39 items: planting, plowing, reaping, gathering, threshing, winnowing, sorting, grinding, sifting, kneading, cooking, shearing, laundering, combing wool, dyeing, spinning, warping, threading needles, weaving, separating threads, tying, untying, sewing, tearing, trapping, killing, flaying/skinning, curing/preservation, smoothing, scoring, measured cutting, the order of construction, writing, erasing, construction, demolition, extinguishing a fire, ignition, final completion/fine-tuning/perfecting, and transferring between domains.

**Thus Spoke Shaggy.** To quote Shaggy from Scooby Doo, "Zoinks!" That's some list. But don't some of these things have to be done on the Sabbath? And Jewish law also commands God's call to, as it is stated in Hebrew, oneg Shabbat, that is, to enjoy the Sabbath. So with all of the prohibitions, can anything be done to "enjoy the Sabbath"? Yes. You see, that last item on the prohibition list qualifies everything else: "transferring between domains." In Judaism, there are three major domains: Private, Public, and Semi-Public. On the Sabbath, many of those prohibited items can rightly be done in the private domain (the home or the extended community), not in the public or semi-public domain. What the heck does that mean? So, in traditional Judaic understanding, you can cook for your family, even for extended family and commu-

*(continued on page 10)*

**HC & ICC CLERGY**

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. John Enemuo	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. 118
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**ICC STAFF**

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

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**HOLY CROSS SCHOOL**

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

Mallory O'Mara	Principal, ext. 111
----------------	---------------------

**MAILING ADDRESS**

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

**JAN. 25—3RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME**

**FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9:1B-4**

On the people who dwelt in a land of deep darkness light has shone.

**SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-13, 17**

Paul's exhortation to the church in Corinth is, as usual, practical, addressing the divisions that have arisen in the community.

**GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-23**

With the arrest of John the Baptist, Jesus moves fully into his ministry and immediately calls his first two disciples.

**SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY**

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 difficult 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. **We welcome both men and women to join us in this important ministry.** If you are interested in joining us please contact Lori Christiansen at 302-745-6900 or via email at [shera29@verizon.net](mailto:shera29@verizon.net).

**CATHOLIC FORUM**

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, author Mary Ruth Hackett will discuss her young adult book, Discernment of Spirits for Beginners. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceesofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at [cdow](http://cdow).

## Purse Bingo

Please join us on Saturday evening, February 28 from 6 pm to 10 pm for a fun night of bingo. We have some beautiful bags to win, basket auction prizes and



50/50. All proceeds help to send our teens to Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer.

Tickets are \$35 each - tables of 8 - and may be purchased in the Parish Office or by emailing: [ldarling@holycrossover.org](mailto:ldarling@holycrossover.org).

## SPAGHETTI DINNER

The Knights of Columbus Council 4182 will be holding our spaghetti dinner on **Saturday, January 24th in the Parish Hall from 6 pm to 7:30 pm**. The proceeds will be used to support Pro-Life programs such as Delaware Right to Life & New Day Pregnancy Care Center. The Knights will be continuing our membership drive at Holy Cross from the previous Sunday. Single \$13 Couple \$25 Family (4 or more) \$40, takeout will be available.

In addition, the Council will also be conducting our **membership drive** for parishioners of **Immaculate Conception on Sunday, January 25th after the 8:30 and 11 am Masses**. All male parishioners 18 years or older are welcome to join.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

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

- Diane Street
- Joseph Francis "Joey" Harris
- Gregory Allen Tarailia
- Patricia Ann (Gerrity) Van Orman
- Peter Greg

## HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

Holy Cross High School Invites You to Join Our Faith-Filled Community!  
Applications are now open for the 2026-

## MASS INTENTION JANUARY

### 19 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Carmen Campanicki

### 20 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Michele Lanagan (LI)

### 21 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Renata Kosior

### 22 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Aloysius Manjo  
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

### 23 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Darrin Conti

### 24 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Robert Pietropinto  
HC 5:00 pm Maria Antoinete Maddalena

### 25 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Deacon Sherman Mitchell  
ICC 8:30 am Alma and Calvin Smith  
HC 9:30 am Aloysius & Mary Manjo  
ICC 11:00 am Sal and Connie Schepens  
HC 11:30 am Joseph "Joey" Francis Harris  
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

*Jan 18 – Jan 25 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of parishioners of Holy Cross.*

*Jan 18 – Jan 25 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for parishioners of Holy Cross.*

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 students in courses that match their academic strengths and prepare them for success. Register today at [www.hchs.org](http://www.hchs.org). For more information, contact Christina Klaus, Director of Admissions: [cmklaus@hchs.org](mailto:cmklaus@hchs.org).

JANUARY 24/25, 2026

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM M. MacLeish M. Miller C. Barrett  
D. MacLeish M. Phillips M. Caskey

LECTORS

S. Winfrey  
G. Murphy

7:30 AM W. Thomas C. Brown E. Costa  
M. Thompson J. Chandler M. Costa  
S. Murawski

LECTORS

A. Wylie

9:30 AM G. Wessel R. Wiley G. Hawk  
M. Wessel T. Arndt J. Hawk

LECTORS

L. Lewandowski  
L. Olmstead

11:30 AM M. Richard T. Hernandez A. Sandoval  
E. Pastoriza D. Chavez

LECTORS

M. Mendoza  
D. Runser

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM B. Lawson

LECTORS

D. Smith

11:00 AM A. Poppiti

LECTORS

L. Soule



**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](mailto: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](http://www.MarriageHelpDelVal.org). All inquiries are strictly confidential.

- Gracias a todos los que se quedaron después de la misa a quitar todo las ambientaciones navideñas y limpiar y preparar el templo para el Tiempo Ordinario.
- **¿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 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
- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ**
- Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia... (P. Gerald Fitzgerald, SP) Únase al Apostolado de las Siete Hermanas en Holy Cross para ofrecer: Una hora santa, Por un sacerdote; Cada semana, Un corazón de oración. Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

## ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

### Sacramentos:

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

**Primera Comunión:** Sesión # 2 martes, 27 de enero, 6:30 -7:30 en el Salón parroquial.

**Confirmación 2026:** Sesión # 4 domingo 18 de enero de 3-5:30 en el salón parroquial.

**Retiro de Confirmación:** Aquí en ICC ,7 de febrero de 9:00 am – 4:00 PM en el salón parroquial.

### RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Next Class: January 20th (K-4th Grade) and January 21st (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

### LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Next classes February 1st and February 15th. 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 20th – Foundations of Faith session 13th

"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.

### MONDAY MORNING GROUP

Beginning January 26th, the Monday Morning Group will begin Dan Burke’s “Spiritual Warfare and Discernment of Spirits”

Class begins at 9:00 am in the Luke room on the 2nd floor of the Early Learning Center, the Parish Office.

### YOUTH MINISTRY

#### Confirmation Classes:

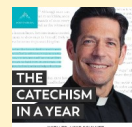
Our next Confirmation Class will be Sunday, January 25 from 5-6:30 pm and Wednesday, January 28 from 6-7:30 pm. Both classes will be in the Matthew Mark room 2nd floor of the ELC building - this week only. Parents will NOT be invited to this class because of the space constraints.

#### Youth Group:

Our next Youth Group meeting will be on Sunday, January 25 from 6:45-8 pm in the Luke Room, 2nd floor ELC building. All high school youth are welcome to join us.

### 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/biy-espanol-registration>



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

OCIA: Monday nights in Parish Office from 5:30-7:15pm, Please call and join us.

Catechist Formation/In-Service: Tuesday, February 3rd, 7-8:30pm in Parish Hall.

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

Confirmation Retreat: Here at ICC, February 7th, from 9am-4pm in the Hall. This is for the Confirmation Youth only.

First Communion Prep: Session #2: January 27th at 6:30pm-7:30pm in Parish Hall

Dear Parishioners,

This past week marked our transition back into Ordinary Time. As we move out of the Christmas season, we are invited to turn our focus toward the everyday life and works of Jesus Christ. Ordinary Time reminds us that holiness is found not only in great celebrations, but in our daily choices, actions, and relationships. During this season, we encourage our students to reflect on how they can live out the teachings of Christ through kindness, service, and faithfulness in their everyday lives, both in and out of the classroom.

On Monday, I had the pleasure of meeting with our National Junior Honor Society students. During this meeting, students shared thoughtful and meaningful ideas for service opportunities within our school and the wider community. It was inspiring to see their enthusiasm, initiative, and genuine desire to make a positive impact. These students truly embody our school mission, as they seek to lead with integrity, compassion, and responsibility. I look forward to continuing our conversations and working alongside them to bring their ideas to life here at Holy Cross.

While Tuesday and Thursday were quieter days in terms of extracurricular activities, our classrooms and hallways were filled with purposeful learning. Our Pre Kindergarten students continued exploring winter animals, developing curiosity and wonder about God's creation. In fifth grade, students expanded their knowledge of biomes in science while also studying the Silk Road in social studies, deepening their understanding of geography, history, and cultural connections. In junior high, our eighth grade students spent a significant portion of the week learning about the various vocations within the Church. This preparation is especially meaningful as they will serve as leaders during Catholic Schools Week, helping to educate and inspire younger students about the many ways one can answer God's call.

On Wednesday, we were honored to welcome our associate superintendent to campus. He spent time visiting classrooms, meeting faculty and staff, and engaging with our students. He also met with teachers who are in their second year of the mentoring program to discuss their professional goals and growth as educators. Later that afternoon, we hosted a gathering of Catholic school leaders and teachers from across the Diocese of Wilmington to begin early planning for a potential delegation trip. While details are still being developed, this is an exciting opportunity and we look forward to sharing more information later this spring.

On Friday, our school community participated in a dress down day to show support for law enforcement officers. We did so in a special way to honor Corporal Ty Snook, who passed in the line of duty prior to the Christmas holiday. Corporal Snook and his family are part of our Diocese of Wilmington, and he will always be remembered as a true hero. We continue to hold his family and all law enforcement officers in our prayers, and we are grateful for their service, courage, and sacrifice. At Holy Cross, we remain committed to teaching our students respect, gratitude, and appreciation for those who serve and protect our communities.

God bless,

Mrs. O'Mara

nity, but not be put into labor to cook. On the Sabbath, you can build a baby's crib in the private domain (home), but can't go out to buy a crib, and spend money to do so, in the public/semi-public domain, and then lug it back home. That's crossing domains, and that constitutes work. Back in the day, home-offices didn't exist, thus that would be a whole 'nother issue.

**Important Distinction.** Okay, everything I noted above is specifically in the context of Judaism, not in the context of Christianity nor in the context of Catholic teaching. Though certainly, Christianity takes a strong cue and many principles from some of these origins regarding the Sabbath.

Sunday Morning Comin' Down. So, for Christianity, with the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday, the concept of the Sabbath remained, but its day of observance became Sunday (or, liturgically speaking, Saturday evening and Sunday). Fun fact: In our Romance languages, the connection between Sabbath and Saturday remains linguistically present: Spanish (*sabado*) and Italian (*sabato*), both mean "Saturday." Sunday, the day we observe as the Sabbath, is more commonly identified as "The Lord's Day" (hence in Spanish "*Domingo*" and in Italian "*Domenica*" — God's day).

**Catholic Teaching.** So, you may wonder: in Christianity, in our Catholic faith, do we have 39 prohibitions, and do we have a private domain/public domain limitation? The answer is, basically, no. Our restrictions are there, but they are far more expansive in their scope and less defined in their application. What does the Church say about "work" on the Sabbath ("the Lord's day")? Well, the Catechism of the Catholic Church (#2184) states the following as an overarching principle:

*"Just as God rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done," human life has a rhythm of work and rest. The institution of the Lord's Day helps everyone enjoy adequate rest and leisure to cultivate their familial, cultural, social, and religious lives."*

**Worship and Enjoyment.** What are the specific limits of that broad statement? The Catechism says that "the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God" and that would hinder "the joy proper to the Lord's Day." So, you are called to set aside time to worship God (i.e., go to Mass) and to enjoy the day (e.g., be with friends, play/watch sports, partake in hobbies, etc.). Also, you are to enjoy "relaxation of mind and body." The Church also notes that refraining from work never includes refraining from "works of mercy."

Are there things that may precipitate a need for work on the Lord's Day? Yep! The Church teaching (CCC #2185), "Family needs, or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest." So, if Baby Fauntleroy needs a diaper change, you can't say, "Eh, that can wait until Monday." If you did that, that would really stink — literally! More practically, you may need to go grocery shopping or shop for needed items for the home. If you are a volunteer fireman ("important social service"), you can certainly work. Likewise, there are those who do work on Sunday "because of poverty and misery" (i.e., they need to work, or are in desperate straits).

**What about Baseball and Food?** Ah, baseball and food (for example) — now, this hits close to home. But the Church in its generous hearts says, "Traditional activities (sport, restaurants, etc.), and social necessities (public services, etc.), require some people to work on Sundays, but everyone should still take care to set aside sufficient time for leisure." Spiritually, the Church teaches, "Sunday is a time for reflection, silence, cultivation of the mind, and meditation which furthers the growth of the Christian interior life."

**Holy Day vs. Holiday.** And finally, the Church calls the faithful to bring the spirit of the Sabbath to all in society; in CCC #2188, the Church teaches, "In respecting religious liberty and the common good of all, Christians should seek recognition of Sundays and the Church's holy days as legal holidays. They [Christians] have to give everyone a public example of prayer, respect, and joy and defend their traditions as a precious contribution to the spiritual life of society."

So, that is, I know, a lot to digest. But for those who struggle with the proper manner in which to heed the Commandment regarding the Sabbath, as a day of rest, in the context of the Church's teaching, I would commend you to — like Mary — take all of these things and ponder them in your heart. Perhaps this is a good topic to, dare I say, work on this Sunday. God bless you all!

Yours in Christ, Fr. James Lentini, Pastor