



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 21, 2024

3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

holycross

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



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James,
the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.
Then he called them.

Mt 1:19-20



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.

TAX STATEMENTS

The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2023 year. If we have your email in our records, this information will be emailed to you at the end of January. If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org. Thank you.

For ICC please contact the ICC parish office to pick one up or have it mailed to you.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending January 7, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$25,085	\$28,840	\$3,755
YTD	\$754,487	\$756,140	(\$1,653)
Needs	\$1,763	\$1,712	\$51
Christmas	\$34,568	\$27,500	\$7,068

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 7, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,958
Second Collection	\$397

Thank you to all our 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,

My last few columns were written in a more serious tone, so to take a break from that tone, I want to use this column for a quite light-hearted guilty pleasure... on a topic near and dear to my heart each winter: Snow!

Baby, It's Cold Outside! As I write this column on Sunday night, January 14, it seems that central Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland may be experiencing its first snow storm of the New Year this coming week, on Monday-Tuesday, and perhaps a little more on Friday. None of what is predicted amounts to a monumental snowstorm, but what comes our way may be just enough to cause a run on milk, bread and toilet paper, and perhaps to close area schools for the day. We know that when there is a depletion of bread, milk, and toilet paper from our supermarkets, when our roads are covered with more salt than a Philadelphia pretzel, and when people start singing "Baby, It's Cold Outside" like they mean it (while dodging the political-correctness police), we know that winter is really and truly here. December gave us some mild days, but, dang, mid-January may mean business: cold and snow!

The Snow and the Scriptures. Many people will lament that snow can be annoying and inconveniencing, yet, at the same time, it is also beautiful. It is also worth noting that the Scriptures are not silent on the issue of snow. The Bible has a blizzard of references to that white stuff. So, while the weather outside is frightful, the Scriptures are so delightful (and insightful). And so, here are a flurry of scripture texts regarding snow and some of my, I hope not too flakey, thoughts about them:

1. **The Heat is On! Daniel 3:67-70**, finds the Prophet telling us about three young men (Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) being cast into a fiery furnace by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, for refusing to bow down to the king's image. While these three young men are baking in the heat of the furnace, they praise God saying, "Cold and chill, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever... Frost and chill, bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever. Ice and snow bless the Lord; praise and exalt him above all forever." The young men were spared death in the furnace by the power of God. So, while you may not like ice and snow, this scripture reminds us that its beauty and presence serve to bless the

Lord. I imagine that as some of you find yourself slipping on ice and driving on snowy roads this winter, you may also be having a conversation with God on this matter, but it might not be words of blessing. If that's the case, think of the three young men in the furnace, and warm up to words of praise instead.

2. **Cooler than Fonzie! The Book of Proverbs 25:10**, informs us that "*Like the coolness of snow in the heat of the harvest is a faithful messenger for the one who sends him. He refreshes the soul of his master.*" From the "holy-Hannah-it's-freezing" cold of last Monday night and Tuesday, and the several inches of white stuff we have all learned about "coolness" – and not in the 1970s Fonzie sense of the world. But despite the cold and the snow we carry on, we continue! The weather does its thing, and we do ours. In the midst of the coldest winter, our hearts burns with the love of God – giving us, dare I say, "Happy Days" even in the midst of rough weather.
3. **The First Time that Snow Closed Schools. The Book of Job 5:5-7**, in part, tells us, "*He does great things beyond our knowing; wonders past our searching out. For he says to the snow, 'fall to the earth'... He shuts up all mankind indoors.*" Teachers and students take note: this passage shows the Divine origin of snow days: God makes it snow ("He says to the snow, 'fall to the earth'"), kids can't go to school ("he shuts-up all mankind indoors"). So, when you see those "School Closed" listings on WBOC, God gives us those times – those oft unexpected times – for us to be able to spend time with our families or just a quiet day inside.
4. **Fear Not the Snow. The book of Proverbs 31:10,21** advises us that, "*When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. She fears not the snow for her household; all her charges are doubly clothed.*" To all you husbands with wives who are moms of school-aged kids, here's a scripture that puts all those psycho-crazy snowy mornings into perspective. That worthy wife, that good mom have "fears not the snow" – of course not, she deals with it, firmly and directly. Crisis averted!
5. **This Would Get a Weather Alert on Your**

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F.
Rev. Brennan Ferris

Pastor
Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

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

Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell

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
Michele Dornberger Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt

Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered parishioners:

- Mary and George Walter

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Brody John Alexander

MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

We are trying to start a new group that would meet one time a month on a Saturday morning called Mom and Baby. The meeting would be in the Early Learning Center Building, second floor. More details will be given in upcoming bulletins. Stay tuned!!!

VOCATIONS

Did you Know ... that “do not be afraid” appears 365 times in the scriptures? One for each day of the year (St. John Paul II). So, do not be afraid to God’s call!!

FIRST RECONCILIATION

First Reconciliation will take place at Holy Cross next Saturday, January 27 for those second graders from Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception. Please keep these children in your prayers as they continue on their faith journey.

4TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JAN 28)

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20

God will raise a prophet among you who will speak with the Lord’s word.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 7:32-25

Paul invites people to fulfil their role for which the Lord has called them, free from worry.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:21-28

The crowd recognizes Jesus as a prophet who offers a teaching that is new, which he speaks with authority.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all couples celebrating their 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, wedding anniversary, or any anniversary beyond 50th, to the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass being held on World Marriage Sunday, February 11, 2024, at 1:00PM at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Reservations are required by February 2, 2024.

Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the 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/k1uxe9k20m649mn/>

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE AT HOLY CROSS

LADIES: Would you like to give a gift of prayer for our Priest? 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

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.

MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY

22 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Thomas Robert Burns

23 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am DM Insao Family

24 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Bobby Viguerie (LI)

25 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am James Kimmel, Sr.
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

26 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Skocik and Scharriner Families

27 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Gabriel T. Huffman
HC 5:00 pm James and Audrey Bronk Family

28 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Marie E. Beltran
ICC 8:30 am Rebecca Wynn
HC 9:30 am Mary Coyle
ICC 11:00 am Lorraine Monahan
HC 11:30 am Pedro Mieles
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

The next program will be held February 16 - 18, 2024 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.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, January 27th, hear an interview with Scott Wilson, principal of Saints Peter and Paul High School in Easton, Maryland and learn about that terrific school and how they are planning to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts.

JAN 27/28, 2024			
EMHC			SERVERS
5:00 PM	M. Phillips N. Sirolli	P. Sheldon M. Sirolli	J. Novack Z. Klaus
	LECTORS J. Davis D. Dixon		
7:30 AM	M. Jacobs L. Luckett	M. Thompson J. Salamone	J. Shevock S. Shevock
	LECTORS J. Shevock S. Shevock		
9:30 AM	R. Willey B. Richards	G. Richards C. Robinson	H. Louissaint G. Maddalena
	LECTORS M. Sossich S. Winfrey		
11:30 AM	C. Garcia B. Guzman	A. Luna	TBD
	LECTORS TBD		
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	TBD		
	LECTORS G. Godfrey		
11:00 AM	TBF		
	LECTORS D. King		
1:00 PM	TBD		

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings. Call John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at jkm2015@verizon.net to schedule.



This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival. What better time is there to select an open hour in our Adoration Chapel and spend some time with Jesus weekly. Please consider taking some time each week out of your busy schedule to sit in silence and prayer before Our Lord. Call today to reserve your hour. You will be so blessed and glad you did.

SUNDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
MONDAY	5 pm
WEDNESDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5 pm
THURSDAY	4 pm
FRIDAY	6 am
SATURDAY	5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

PURSE BINGO

Mark your calendars! Our annual purse bingo to raise money to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer will take place on Saturday, **March 9.**



please contact Linda Darling in the parish office for tickets or by email ldarling@holycrossdover.org. Please plan on joining us for a fun evening.

- El Foro Cristiano Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche con el padre Brennan Ferris. El tema es: El Misterio Eucarístico” donde todo el año las clases se centrará en la EUCARISTIA y la PRESENCIA REAL en la Eucaristía Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024.
- Fiesta de la Virgen de la Candelaria: el domingo, 4 de febrero celebraremos la fiesta de la Candelaria. Los anfitriones traerán los tamales y todos pueden traer sus niños dioses para levantarlos.



- Conquistando Las Naciones para Cristo: Retiro de Sanación Interior, febrero 9-11 del 2024 para Hombres y Mujeres en la parroquia de Holy Cross. Inscripción el viernes, 9 a las 6:30pm. Donación es de \$125. Para más información llame al 302-442-5887 - 302-415-5036 – 302- 685-8192
- Peregrinación Diocesana: Nuevamente la diócesis nos ha pedido que participemos en la Vía Crucis como parte de uno de los eventos de la peregrinación con nuestro obispo Koenig, el sábado, 23 de marzo, 2024 en Wilmington. Los Jóvenes y adolescentes que desean participar por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Tendremos los ensayos todos los miércoles a de 7-8:30PM en el salón de nuestra parroquia hermana de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel , comenzando el 24 de enero día del santo patrón de nuestra diócesis . ¡San Francisco de Sales ruega por nosotros!
- Este mismo elenco también presentara la Vía Crucis en Holy Cross el viernes santo a las 9:00 de la noche en la iglesia.
- Pase un día en peregrinación con el Señor Obispo por las calles de Wilmington. Se les invita a todos los jóvenes y a las familias a participar de la Peregrinación, el 23 de marzo de 2024 de 9:30 am a 5:15PM para la 13.^a Peregrinación de CYM. Se espera reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia. Los eventos del día incluyen:
 - ⇒ .Oración de apertura y entretenimiento a las 10:00 am en St. Elizabeth,
 - ⇒ Pasar por el Hospital St. Francis para una bendición especial de los pacientes,
 - ⇒ Servicio de Reconciliación en San Antonio de Padua
 - ⇒ Experimentar las Estaciones de la Cruz en Padua Academy con nuestros jóvenes de Holy Cross y ICC.
 - ⇒ Exposición del Santísimo Sacramento en la iglesia de San Pablo
 - ⇒ Regresar a St. Elizabeth para la Bendición de las Palmas y la Misa de las 4:00 pm.
 - ⇒ Ya están abiertas las inscripciones, hay que inscribirse en línea antes del 15 de marzo

ICC

Clases de Preparación Sacramental:

Clase de Preparación para La Primera Comunión: Primera Sesión el martes 23 de enero en el salón.

Primera Reconciliación: sábado, 27 de enero, al 12 meridiano en la Santa Cruz, Dover

Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación Sesión # 4 el domingo 14, de enero de 3:00 – 5:30 en el salón.

Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para la peregrinación con el Señor Obispo para el 23 de 3 marzo. Para más información hable con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: January 21st at 3:00pm-5:00pm

Save the Date!

February 28th at 7pm in the Parish Hall "Mark's Gospel" presented by the Reverend Joseph Morris from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

"The one-person performance is not a "reading" or a "talk" but the entire Gospel of St. Mark memorized and performed as storytelling. It's fast paced, energetic, up close and personal."

All are welcome!

The families of all Holy Cross students LAFF, and Religious Education Students are encouraged to attend.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Next LAFF class is January 28 at 10:30 am. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences. See above for a special Lent formation opportunity.

Is your family interested in joining the Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis with Deacon Vince? Contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming formation opportunities!

Tuesday offerings: **Note new start date(offered at 9 am or 7 pm)**

January 16th-February 6th Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession

"Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bout of God's love.

February 13th-March 19th No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion.

"Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life."

Special Lent offering:

February 28th at 7pm in the Parish Hall "Mark's Gospel" presented by the Reverend Joseph Morris from the Archdiocese of Atlanta.

"The one-person performance is not a "reading" or a "talk" but the entire Gospel of St. Mark memorized and performed as storytelling. It's fast paced, energetic, up close and personal."

For more information, please contact tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call Tammy Korosec at (302) 674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Classes:

Next classes are Sunday, January 21 and Wednesday, January 24

Confirmation Retreat:

For those teens unable to attend our overnight retreat, we will meet January 27at 8 am in the Matthew Mark room. If you have a conflict with this date, please contact Linda Darling.

Youth Formation:

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 23 at 6:30 pm in the Luke room 2nd floor ELC building. This is open to all high school teens - please join us for games, food, faith, music - a great place to meet some great people.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Classes will resume on Sunday, January 7th

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

First Reconciliation: Sacrament of

1st Reconciliation: Saturday, January 27th, 12noon at Holy Cross, Dover

First Communion: Prep Session #1 begins on Tuesday, January 23rd, at 6:30pm promptly in parish hall.

Catechist In-Service: Tuesday, January 30th at 7pm in the Parish hall. This is for assistants and aids as well.

CYM Pilgrimage: Now in its thirteenth year, and better than ever. Plan today to join us on March 23, 2024, for the 13th CYM Pilgrimage. We hope to gather one thousand youth, young adults, and families as we walk the city streets of Wilmington with Bishop Koenig, carrying the Pilgrimage Cross from parish to parish. Plans include opening prayer and entertainment at 10:00 am at St. Elizabeth, stopping by St. Francis Hospital for a special blessing of the patients, the chance to celebrate Reconciliation at St. Anthony of Padua, experiencing the Stations of the Cross at Padua Academy, to kneel before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Paul, and return to St. Elizabeth for Blessing of Palms and 4:00 pm Mass. The day ends after Mass (around 5:15pm). The cost is \$15 per person (\$45 for a family) and we have a bus, for an additional \$10/person over 10 years old(you must register to have a seat). We should be returning to ICC at around 7:00pm. I will have the youth contact you as we leave Wilmington, we may make a short stop for fast food. The day's event is from 9:30am-5:15 pm. Please contact Alicia Poppiti for more information and registration forms for ICC and bus details, 410-482-8939.

Speaking for myself alone, I have never changed the oil in my car. Nor would I know how to prepare pheasant under glass for dinner guests. I wouldn't know where to begin if I thought my house needed to be power-washed, and truthfully, I am up the creek without clear directions (pictures are extra helpful) in almost all tasks having a single thing to do with technology. There are those who can figure things out intuitively. Not me.

I need clear and concise directions. Give me a time or two in the completion of the task, and in most cases I am off to the races. But I am lost in the woods without guidance.

As it happened, I was walking down the second-floor hallway early one morning, while glancing over to one of the fifth-grade classrooms I saw Mrs. Thompson in her apron. After exchanging morning greetings, I continued my walk down the hallway wondering about the purpose of the apron. Knowing it wasn't Mardi Gras, there would be no making of the traditional flapjacks.

Later that morning, I returned my Math-group to their classroom only to find Mrs. Thompson still clad in her apron. As the students entered the classroom, she was directing them to write down the recipe for making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. That was all she said. "Write down the directions for making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich." I accepted Mrs. Thompson's invitation to watch the lesson. The children quickly got down to busy and gave Mrs. Thompson their assignment. As I walked to the rear of the classroom, I observed a table at the front of the room set with a jar of Peter Pan peanut butter, a loaf of Wonder bread, a butter knife, a jar of grape jelly, (I wasn't familiar with the brand), a large stainless-steel bowl filled with water, containing a dishrag. There was a stack of paper plates, and a roll of paper towels. Off to the side, at arm's length were the pieces of paper on which was the student's written directions for preparing a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

[As a note to the reader, I will be paraphrasing the directions written by the students as I am writing this essay based on recall.]

Recipe #1: Take two slices of bread. Smear on the peanut butter, then the jelly. Put the two slices together. Enjoy!

Mrs. Thompson's response to the directions: She had 2 slices of bread. She took her right hand and scooped out the PB with her fingers and smeared it on the bread with her hand, and scooped out the jelly using the same method, much to the surprise the students. After putting the two slices together, she was done!

Recipe #2: You need 2 slices of bread. Put the peanut butter on the bread. Put the jelly on the other piece. Slice and eat.

Mrs. Thompson's response to the directions: She placed the two slices of bread on the table. She placed the jar of PB on top the bread. She followed suit with the jelly. Much to the entertainment of the children, she explained that there was really no way she could slice and eat.

Recipe #3: You need a knife to put the penut (sic) butter on the sides of the bread. Put on the jelly. Eat and enjoy!

Mrs. Thompson's response to the directions: Reading the recipe to the class and pronouncing the first ingredient phonetically, (Mrs. Thompson responded to their amusement by saying, "but that's the way it was spelled) Mrs. Thompson picked up the knife and proceeded to put the PB on the crust of the bread. The students laughed and said "No!" Mrs. Thompson reminded them that she was ONLY following the directions as she continued to cover the crust with the delectable spreads. She showed them the result asking if anyone wanted a sandwich. There were no takers.

Everyone's recipe was read. Dipping her hands in the stainless steel bowl, ripping the paper towel from the roll, drying her hand for the final time, she turned and asked the class if they got the gist of the point she was trying to make. All responding with a resounding YES!; Mrs. T. then asked her students if they realized the importance of clarity and not taking for granted that the reader will know how to complete any given task.

This lesson is the lead-in to writing a Process Paper. This type of paper details a process from its start to finish in a clear and organized way. As a result of Mrs. Thompson's lesson on making PBJ sandwiches, the students now fully realize the importance of including clarity and complete detail when writing directions for someone who does not know how to follow-through on implementing a particular task. The next few lessons will allow time for the students to write their Process Paper on a topic of their choice; with the approval of Mrs. Thompson. The written portion of the assignment will be followed up with a student demonstration of their task. Let us all hope that the demonstration portion is a mirror reflection of their written Process Paper.....

..... Now, let me see if I can direct you in making a PBJ sandwich.

Remove two slices of white sandwich bread from the bag or container. Open both jars. Using a butter knife scoop the desired portion of peanut butter from the jar. Spread it on the bread. Wipe clean the knife. Repeat the process by using the knife to scoop the desired amount of jelly from the jar. Spread the jelly on the second slice. Put the sandwich together so the peanut butter slice faces the jelly. Slice and eat.

Did I do a good job, Mrs. Thompson?

Phone: The Book of Wisdom (16:22), in its sagaciousness, notes, *"Yet snow and ice withstood fire and were not melted, that they might know that their enemies' fruits were consumed by a fire that blazed in the hail and flashed lightning in the rain."* Each year, I find streets in Dover, and roads out near Marydel that this passage brings to mind. You know the roads I'm talking about. Everywhere else the snow and ice are gone, and yet, you turn down that one street, and find that you are in the land that time forgot! It looks like the ice age hit there, and the snow and the ice abide! The point of the story: The gifts of God are indestructible against the forces that infernal, Devilish enemy. He gives us the ability to prevail by his grace!

6. **Do you have Time to Kill on a Snowy Day? In 1 Chronicles 11:22**, we are told that *"Benaiah, son of Jehoiada, a valiant man of mighty deeds, from Kabzeel, killed the two sons of Ariel of Moab. Also, he went down and killed the lion in the cistern on a snowy day."* Now a snowy day in scripture isn't the most common things, nor is it for us. But when it snows, when the white powder covers the landscape, and all seems so quiet, we may find we are home with time on our hands, or as it is said colloquially "with time to kill." Take that extra time that God has blessed you with to pray, read scripture, study your Catechism – but avoid the path of Benaiah, steer clear of the cistern, and give the lion a pass.

7. **Snow Removal. Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, 18:14.** *"Does the snow of Lebanon ever vanish from its rocky slopes? Do its cool waters from distant sources ever stop flowing?"* When I growing up in New York, it was an article of faith that if there were a big snow storm, Manhattan would be quickly plowed and cleared, but the other four boroughs (Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx, and Staten Island) would have a different snow removal program; it was called springtime. Yes, the snow lingered. I remember in Dover back during a big storm in the 1990s, there was a mountain of snow in the middle of the Dover Mall parking lot that last nearly until May. It lingered – it abided. Just so the presence of God lingers, He abides with us. In the context of Jeremiah, the point being made is that just as the snow never vanishes from a rocky elevated mountain slope, but rather melts and provides flowing water (and is then replaced by more new snow), so God remains ever-present with us providing for our spiritual needs.

8. **Snow on the Roads. The First Book of Maccabees 13:21-22**, related to us that *"The men in the citadel sent messengers to Trypho, urging him to come to them by way of the desert, and to send them provisions. Although Trypho got all his cavalry ready to go, there was a heavy fall of snow that night, and he could not go. So, he left for Gilead."* Those poor guys in the citadel! Even with the efforts of Trypho, they were not able to get their bread and milk! They didn't stop at the Redner's beforehand, and thus they weren't prepared. So, next time the sky is a "Hazy shade of winter," (kudos to Simon and Garfunkel), and 1/8 of an inch of snow is predicted, and you see the crazy shopping line at Redner's, consider that maybe those people read this passage of scripture and are playing it safe. God perhaps closed one door and opened another. You see because of that snowfall Trypho had to abandon a planned siege and returned to Syria. There, a series of events – way too long to explain in this space -- eventually led to a Jewish state that achieved full independence from Hellenistic (Greek) hegemony. And all because of snow!

As noted early, I am writing this column on Sunday night, January 14, and the weather report for tomorrow night (Monday into Tuesday) and Thursday night into Friday looks snowy. And adding to the potential Winter Wonderland effect is a predicted huge temperature drop that will make things (in the words of rock band Foreigner) "Cold as Ice." If all of this is correct, and the snow starts falling like World Series ratings when there's no east coast team involved, then it might just be a good time to ponder these scriptures, which are both timeless and timely. It might be a good time to recall God's hand in the very beauty of creation, and in our daily lives, and give him the praise that is due.

And so, as Dean Martin crooned in 1959: Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! (And, if perchance it doesn't snow, then blame the Weather Channel, Accu-Weather, Wunderground.com, and the National Weather Service... but praise God anyway!)

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor