



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 26, 2025

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

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Today this scripture
passage is fulfilled
in your hearing.”

Luke 4:21



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.

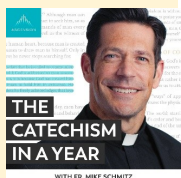
Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

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

Catechism in a Year:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>



Bible in a Year:

In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

[https://](https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/)

media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/

In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

[https://ascensionpress.com/](https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration)

[pages/biy-espanol-registration](https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration)



Rosary in a Year:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending January 12, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$32,710	\$29,075	\$3,635
YTD	\$751,405	\$760,506	(\$9,101)
Needs	\$1,789	\$1,775	\$14
Christmas	\$35,029	\$36,000	(\$971)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 12, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,950
Holy Day	\$218

Holy Cross Parishioners: Tax Statement for the 2024 are being emailed out at the end of the month to any parishioner who requests one. You can call the Parish Office to leave your name and email address or you can email Sharon Seelig at sseelig@holycrossdover.org.

ICC Parishioners please all our ICC office if you wish a tax statement.

Dear Parishioners,

Candles, candles everywhere! A man says: "My girlfriend told me that if I bought her one more stupid gift, she'd burn it. So I bought her a candle." Ouch! What's up with this wick-ed humor, you ask? Well, I dedicate this Pastor's column to the topic of Candlemas, which is observed next Sunday on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Candlemas is a day when special blessings of candles often take place. So, without further ado, here is "light" reading about Candlemas.

Back in the Day. In the old tradition of the Church, the Christmas season ends with the celebration of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2. And just imagine how long the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" would become with that practice (e.g., "On the 39th day of Christmas, etc..."). In any event, February 2nd is the day that the Christ child was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph, in keeping with the Jewish law of the time. That day is also known by another name: Candlemas. Candlemas is a day when the faithful would bring their candles to the Church to get them blessed, and the Church would bless its own candles that would be used.

Waxing Historical. So, what is the connection with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Candlemas? Well, let's step into the Wayback Machine and set the dial to the late 4th century, way back to when Burger King was only a prince, to examine the origin of this beautiful feast in the Church. A nun named Egeria is the source of the earliest known reference to this feast; in one of her writings, she commented:

"The fortieth day after the Epiphany is undoubtedly celebrated here with the very highest honor... All the priests, and after them the bishop, preach, always taking for their subject that part of the Gospel where Joseph and Mary brought the Lord into the Temple on the fortieth day."

Did that Quote Say Epiphany? Epiphany?! Yep, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) was originally the 40th day after Epiphany, but very soon thereafter was reassigned to being 40 days after Christmas (which eliminated the possibility of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, a.k.a Candlemas, from falling during Lent).

And from that early origin, just as "Happy Days" yielded "Laverne and Shirley" and "Friday the 13th" yielded "Friday the 13th Part II," three distinct traditions developed here, too:

- **Presentation of the Lord.** The primary observance of the day is our Lord being presented in the Temple, to God, by his parents. This Jewish practice called for a firstborn son to be offered up to God; then, the parents would make an offering of some sort to "ransom" the child back. So, while the mother (in this case, Mary) offered the Christ Child to God, the father (in this case, Joseph, the foster father) would make an offering to the priest or the Temple to receive the child back and then take him home.
- **Purification of Mary.** From the Middle Ages until 1969, in the Western Church, this feast day was known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary – this is because on the 40th day after the birth of a firstborn child, not only would a child be presented in the Temple, but the mother of that child would undergo a ritual purification. Thus, for the first 40 days of the child's life, the mother would not be allowed in the Temple but would rather be expected to spend that time caring for the newborn child. While Mary had no need of purification, she humbly submitted to the Jewish tradition found in the law of Moses.
- **Candlemas.** And now, onto the origins of Candlemas! The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord bears the common alternate moniker "Candlemas" because of a text from the Gospel of Luke. In Luke's Gospel we hear about an old man named Simeon; he was a prophet. But it was promised that he would not die without seeing the Messiah of Israel in the flesh. When Mary and Joseph brought the Baby Jesus into the Temple for his presentation, the Prophet Simeon proclaimed: "Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel."
- From the reference and focusing on Christ as "a light" revealing God to the nations of the world, the practice developed of that day being observed with candlelight processions. Additionally, those candles would be blessed, and later in history, candles that people brought from their homes to provide light would also be blessed, as would all of the beeswax candles in the Church. And, so, the 40th day after Christmas (Mass of Christ) was dubbed Candlemas (Mass of the Candles). That day would end the Christmas season (which, since 1969,

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD (FEB 2)

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-4

The Lord will send the Christ as he promised; be patient and faithful.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 2:14-18

The sinless Christ shares fully in the human condition and takes away the sins of the world; trust in him.

GOSPEL: LUKE W:22-40

The Christ Child is presented in the Temple and is the light for both Gentiles and Jews. We rejoice.

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is in need of the following items:

Cereal, oatmeal, one pound bags of white rice, peanut butter and jelly, brownie mix, hamburger helper, Manwich, and chunky soups. Any

donations you can make can be left in the Samaritan drop off near the Rectory or in the boxes as you enter the church. Thank you for your kind consideration and donations.

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.

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

The new independent Holy Cross High School will be opening in Dover this Fall! Applications are now being accepted for both Freshman and Sophomore classes. There will be an information session for prospective families on Wednesday, February 12th at 6:30 PM at the Clayton Fire Hall.

COLUMBIETTES

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be hosting a Basket Auction on March 2 from 1:30-4:30 pm at St. Joseph Parish Hall, 371 E. Main St. in Middletown.

Cost is \$30 which includes lunch choice of either Salmon or Chicken Cordon Bleu - 50/50 and basket raffle tickets will be on sale to purchase. Proceeds help the many charitable organizations the Columbiettes support. Please RSVP with lunch choice and check no later than Feb. 13 to Arlene Brown, 87 Paige Pl, Felton, DE 19943 - mail amb550@hotmail.com.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED

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

- Nancy Penfield

SAMARITANS

Our Samaritans are still looking for individuals to help take our hot line calls. If interested, please call the HC Parish Office to leave your name and phone number. We can then have someone

MASS INTENTION JANUARY

27 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Welsh Family
28 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	June Clacher
29 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Hilda L. Cponrad
30 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Mario E. Beltran
IC 6:00 pm	For the People
31 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Loran and Maya Hill (LI)
1 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Tristan Howard
HC 5:00 pm	Albert J. Caruso, Jr.
2 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Ronald Salamone
ICC 8:30 am	Thomas Mialki
HC 9:30 am	John Hogan
ICC 11:00 am	David Keener
HC 11:30 am	Jean Holmes
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

Jan. 26 – Feb. 1 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intentions of Mario E. Beltran.

Jan. 26 – Feb. 2 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of Carolee Kpakiwa.

call you to explain the process to see if you would like to help. Thank you.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, tune in to hear an interview with Dr. Stephanie Kafie, author of the book, "Totally Yours: The Catholic Natural Family Planning Handbook," The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefWilm 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.org/CatholicForum and Facebook.com/CatholicForum.

FEBRUARY 1/2, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

C. Bugglin
M. Casey

J. Clendaniel
D. Field

J. Novack
J. Novack

LECTORS

G. Murphy

7:30 AM

C. Brown
T. Svienty

M. Jacobs
W. Thomas

S. Corpuz
L. Thomas

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM

T. Arndt
D. Banach

K. Boyer
R. Wiley

B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

M. Lausten
J. Lausten

11:30 AM

A. Cisneros
C. Garcia

B. Guzman

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

B. Lawson

8:30 AM

LECTORS

D. Smith

M. Soule

11:00 AM

LECTORS

Lausten Family

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! We are slowly filling our hours. All hours are open for Adoration and would like to have at least two people per hour. 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. 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: "Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is the best time you will spend on Earth." (Mother St Teresa of Calcutta)

"The only time our Lord asked the Apostles for anything was the night He went into agony. Not for activity did he plead, but for an hour of companionship." (Venerable Fulton J. Sheen)

SUNDAY 7 am, 2 pm, 4 pm, 6 pm

TUESDAY 5 pm

WEDNESDAY 1 pm

THURSDAY 9 am, 10 am

SATURDAY 5 am, 10 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 6 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

Foro Cristiano: Foro Cristiano “ Santos y Camino a la Santidad” todos los viernes, de 6-8 de la noche, en el ELC.Salon Mateo/Marcos. 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:

Confirmación 2025: Febrera 7-9, Mount 2000 Retreta.

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@iccmmarydel.org

Primera Comunión: Reunión de Padres de Familia Martes 21 de enero a las 7:00 pm en el salón, o el domingo, 26 de enero de 2:30PM en el salón. Es mandatorio que uno de los padres de los candidatos a la Primera Comunión asista a una de estas juntas.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Class today January 26, 2025; Next class 2/9/25
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)

Class Today, Jan. 26. Next class Feb. 9, 2025 Is your family interested in either starting or continuing their life-long faith journey together? Would you as parents like to be active participants in the faith formation of your children? Deacon Vince Pisano has the perfect Religious Education program for you and your family! 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.

Deacon Bob's Adult Education – Class scheduled to be on January 28! “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!” Meet in the MT/MK room of the ELC at either 9 am or 7 pm. This is a free class/ handouts will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122 for Tammy.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Class: Our next class will take place on January 26 for Sunday and

January 29 for Wednesday.

Kerygma Catch Up Class: Our next class takes place on Wednesday, February 12, beginning at 6 pm in the Matthew Mark room of the ELC.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

You might have noticed that the Gospel readings have been primarily from Luke the past few Sundays.



The Church has entered into liturgical year C where we will continue to hear from St. Luke for the rest of the year!

God wants to meet you in the Mass through the readings. He wants to speak to your heart. When you know the context and significance of the Gospel readings before getting to Mass, you are ready to listen to what Jesus is telling you.

With Luke in 50 Days, you can press play and listen to Fr. Mike Schmitz read you a section of the Gospel of Luke. Jeff Cavins and Scott Powell will be there to discuss the parables, the teachings of Jesus, and show you the connection between the Gospel and the Old Testament.

Use this link to start your journey now!
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/luke-in-50-days-announcement>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

ICC Religious Education:

Sacraments:

First Communion: Parent Meeting, Sunday, January 26th @ 2:30pm in Parish Hall
Parents for first Communion, must attend these meetings.

Session #1: Tuesday, January 28th 6:30-7:30 in Parish Hall

Confirmation Preparation: Mount 2000-February 7-9th

Session #5, Sunday, February 23rd at 3pm-5:30 in the Parish hall.

Dear Parishioners,

This past week, we began with a day off on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Upon returning to school, our students engaged in meaningful discussions with their teachers and peers about the significance of this day. They reflected on Dr. King’s enduring legacy, particularly his message of justice, peace, and unity. Teachers guided lessons centered on his profound “I Have a Dream” speech, encouraging students to embrace its principles by living lives rooted in kindness, courage, and faith.

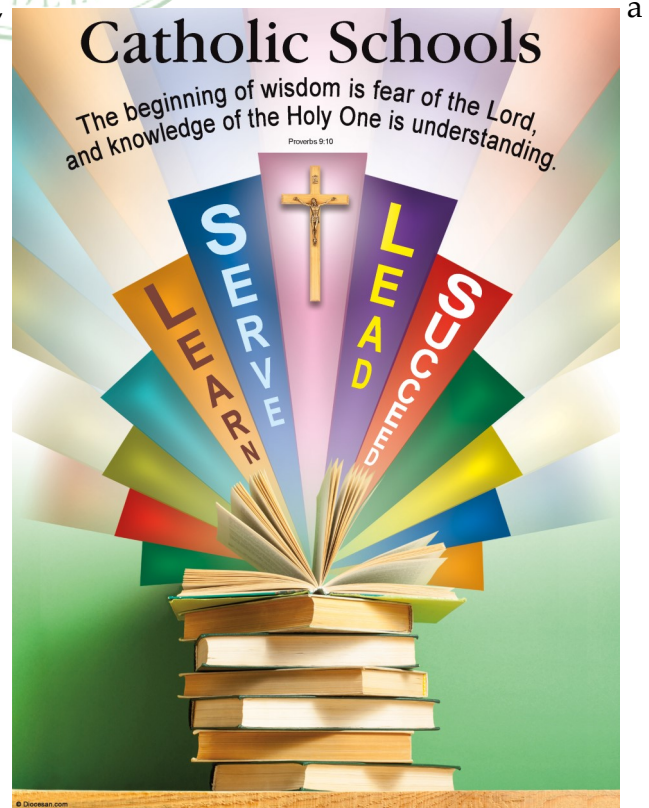
On Wednesday, we hosted a Math League meet in our parish hall. We are incredibly proud of our junior high students for demonstrating their mathematical talents and representing Holy Cross with excellence during this rigorous competition. Their gracious hospitality and sportsmanship reflected the mission of our school and the values we hold dear. We extend our gratitude to Mrs. Coffield for her dedication in leading the team and organizing this event. Opportunities like these enrich our students’ academic growth and allow them to shine beyond the classroom.

Friday marked the interim of our second trimester, signifying the halfway point of both the trimester and the school year. This is an opportune time for students and teachers to pause, reflect, and set goals for the remainder of the year. We encourage students to review their progress, celebrate their accomplishments, and prayerfully consider how they can continue to grow academically, spiritually, and personally. Our teachers and staff remain committed to supporting each student in reaching their full potential.

Today, we joyfully begin Catholic Schools Week, cherished time for our school and the Diocese. This week allows us to celebrate the gift of Catholic education and reflect on its profound impact. Through prayer, learning, and community, we are reminded of the beauty of sharing our faith with one another each day. We are fortunate to teach and learn in an environment where Christ is at the center of all we do.

We have many exciting events planned for this special week, and we look forward to sharing them with you in the days ahead. Let us give thanks for the blessings of our Catholic school and continue to live out its mission of faith, excellence, and service.

God bless,
Mrs. O’Mara



now finds its conclusion on the Baptism of the Lord).

Liturgical Rite. On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas), one of the options for a parish is to have candles blessed either in a formal procession or in a solemn entrance (or, I guess, if you did a little of each, that would be — dare I say — a mixed blessing). Anyway, the candles blessed at Mass on this day are usually paired off and bound together with a red ribbon, forming a “V” shape. These candles are then used to bless throats on the Memorial of St. Blase, which is the next day (February 3).

Sunday Move Over. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is considered to be of such importance and rank that if it lands on a Sunday (as it does this year), it actually takes the place of the Sunday Mass celebration (thus, next Sunday would normally be the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time but since that Sunday will occur on February 2, we will not celebrate the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time but instead will celebrate the Presentation of the Lord). This is a big deal, as not too many Holy Days bump off the regular Sunday celebration; this one does. And just to make it clear for you devoted football fans, that weekend after next, February 9, despite it being Sunday of the Super Bowl (which some folk treat like a religion), be aware that even the Super Bowl doesn't get to bump a Sunday Mass! Because while the world celebrates Super Bowl LIX, the Church celebrates the year of our Lord, MMXXV — I guess with numbers like that, we're winning!

What's in a Name? So, whether you call it the Presentation of the Lord, the Purification of Mary, or Candlemas, the date is February 2nd — and readings and prayers remain the same. These three celebrations are, in truth, three different views of the same event: Christ, the light of the world, being presented in the Temple 40 days after his birth, with his parents present observing the law of their faith.

Blase of Glory. As mentioned earlier, the candles blessed on the Presentation of the Lord are then used to bless throats on February 3, when the Church celebrates the Memorial of St. Blase. I'm always amused that Microsoft Word, as a point of compunction, likes to change St. Blase to St. Blasé. It makes this decided exciting Saint seem a bit jejune. I guess that is what happens with these darn Pagan word processors! In any event, St. Blase is a feast day worth knowing about, and there's nothing blasé about his story.

Boning Up on the History of St. Blase. To appease my word processor, I will spell this saint's name the traditional way: Blaise. Ending the Blase vs Blasé problem. So, who is St. Blaise? He was a fourth-century martyr. Here's the story: St. Blaise was Bishop in Armenia during a time of Christian persecution; he was arrested for practicing his Catholic faith. While spending time in prison, a mother with a son who had gotten a fishbone stuck in his throat visited St. Blaise, who was her Bishop. Blaise imparted his blessing upon her son. Upon the imparting of blessing, the distressing bone in the boy's throat was dislodged, and the child was saved. The mother was grateful for this gift of God's blessing on her child. The authorities, however, were not impressed. They continued to demand that St. Blaise recant his faith in Christ; he refused. He was then tortured terribly and ultimately beheaded for this offense. Since this incident with the mother and child, St. Blaise has been continuously invoked against diseases of the throat, and a blessing through his intercession has been part of our Catholic practice of the faith.

Thank God for Small Blessings. As noted previously, February 3 is the celebration of St. Blase Day (yes, I'm back to using Blase again, no matter what that doggone Microsoft Word thinks about it). On that day after the morning mass, the blessing of throats (using the candles blessed on the Presentation of the Lord) will occur. In that devotional practice, two candles tied together with a red ribbon to form a cross are either (1) placed on both sides of a person's throat or (2) are held aloft in the sanctuary of the Church. The Priest (or Deacon) then invokes blessing, saying: *“Through the intercession of St. Blase, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you free from every disease of the throat, and from every other disease. In the name of the Father and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.”* The person (the people) responds: *“Amen.”*

A happy Presentation of the Lord to all of you! And let your faith keep you warm amidst these cold winter days!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor