

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 28, 2024

4th 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

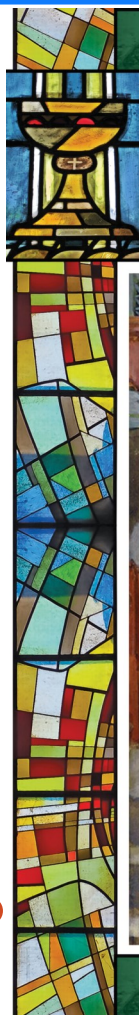
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus rebuked him and said,
"Quiet! Come out of him!"
The unclean spirit convulsed him
and with a loud cry came out of him.
Mark 1:25-26



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.

Make Plans Now to Attend:



Mark's Gospel LIVE
A FIRST CENTURY STORY OF LOVE AND HEALING
SOLO PERFORMANCE BY REV. JOSEPH MORRIS

WED., FEBRUARY 28, 7 PM
CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS
631 SOUTH STATE STREET
DOVER, DE 19901
302-674-5787

"...a profound experience"
—REV. MARK LANGHAM, WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL, LONDON

ADMISSION: FREE-WILL OFFERING

www.gospelofmark.us

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending January 14, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$25,785	\$28,840	(\$3,055)
YTD	\$780,272	\$784,980	(\$4,708)
Needs	\$1,753	\$1,712	\$41

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 14, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,964
Second Collection	\$422

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.

Dear Parishioners,

Well, here we are coming to the end of the first month of our New Year! This month of January has played host to a cornucopia of wonderful saints, some of whom are among your Pastor's favorites. Of note, the last week of January really had and really has some notable saints. Moreover, it is no surprise that the tail-end of January and beginning of February always plays host to Catholic Schools Week (this year January 28 - February 3) — as so many of the saints at the tail end of January are connected to Catholic education:

- There is St. Francis de Sales (Jan. 24) whose teachings forms the basis for the Oblates (priests) of St. Francis de Sales — who are a teaching order of Priests and Brothers who run many schools including our own Salesianum School in Wilmington.
- There is St. Angela Merici (Jan. 27) who founded the teacher order of nuns called the Ursulines, who run many schools including Wilmington's Ursuline Academy.
- There is St. Thomas Aquinas (Jan. 28), the greatest thinker and theologian of the Catholic faith, who is the Patron Saint of Catholic Schools and students.
- There is St. John Bosco (Jan. 31) who founded two religious orders (the Salesians and the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians) to educate boys and girls, respectively. He is the Patron Saint of Young People.

In any event, the saints of this last week of January run the gamut from a converted persecutor of Christians to an outgoing minister to young people. In case you missed some of these saints in the past few days: Fear not, I bring you a recap of some of the highlights from the past few days, and the remaining ones that are upon us now. So, without further ado, I present to you some of the very intriguing saints of the last week of January:

January 24 – St. Francis de Sales, Priest. *“Be who you are, and be that well”* said St. Francis de Sales, a Bishop and a Doctor of the Church. The wisdom of St. Francis de Sales, a well-educated Frenchman who started out in law, but heeded God's call to him to “leave all and follow Me,” has spoken to the hearts of many people. St. Francis de Sales served as a holy Priest and Bishop. However, his simple, gentle and clear explanations of the Catholic faith won back many souls; it is said he converted some 40,000 people. His simplicity, gentleness and clarity marked who St. Francis de Sales was – it's who he was, and he was that well. St. Francis de Sales aimed his writings at lay people; he promulgated a

spirituality for everyday life – and won many souls for Christ in doing so. By way of the kind manner in which he evangelized, preached and taught, he lived out one of his own sayings: *“A spoonful of honey attracts more flies than a barrelful of vinegar.”* His vast amount of words, wisdom and writings (notably “Introduction to the Devout Life” and “A Treatise on the Love of God”) gained him the title of Doctor of the Church. He is the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Wilmington. The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, who run our Salesianum School and St. Anthony's Parish (both in Wilmington) take St. Francis de Sales as their patron. De Sales died in 1622; his heart is preserved in Venice, Italy, for veneration. It can be aptly said that while his heart may rest in Venice now, in life and in death, it was never far from Christ.

January 25 – Conversion of St. Paul. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the world was faced with a dilemma: Two companies generated two videotape formats for watching movies with a videotape player. The two competitors: VHS and Betamax. And in those days, you were on one team or another. As the year past, and as Betamax joined the Edsel on the trash heap of history, some folks wouldn't let it go. They defended Betamax to the bitter end and couldn't make that leap of faith. Conversion is hard, and sometimes radical. It requires admitting that “I was wrong.” St. Paul is a good example of conversion. Originally named Saul, he believed in God, but hated Christianity (and its practitioners, who he would arrest and persecute). One day on his way to Damascus, where he was going to nab some more of those darn Christians, Saul had a miraculous encounter with our Lord who made himself present to him. That encounter with Christ changed Saul to Paul, but more importantly it changed how he looked at the world and looked at God. It brought him from being a persecutor of Christ and his followers, to being a follower himself, who would later be persecuted. The world didn't change, people didn't change and God certainly didn't change – but Paul did. He had a conversion experience. He understood the world differently. It is his change of heart; his conversion, that we celebrate on January 25. (And if there are still any Betamax defenders out there, January 25 might be a good day to, please, just let it go).

January 27 – St. Angela Merici, Virgin. Remember the rock band Pink Floyd – well, there was no one in that band named “Pink” or “Floyd.” So, how did it get its name? The band got its name from two blues musicians who band mem-

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Brennan Ferris	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
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
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered parishioners:

- Lynnsey Rebner

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 ... LIFE is not merely summarized by “what you are willing to die for”, ask yourself “what am I willing to LIVE for?”

If you know of someone interested in religious life, please have them talk to one of the clergy of the parish.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, February 3rd, tune in to hear an interview with Lisa Ritchie, Program Manager of Catholic Charities Behavioral Health Services. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching “Catholic Forum” on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts.

5TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (FEB 4)

FIRST READING: JOB 7:1-4, 6-7

Life is a burden for the melancholy who have no hope.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 9:16-19, 22-23

To preach the Gospel is a duty, even if it's one that is not chosen.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:29-39

He cured many who were suffering.

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/>

QUARTER AUCTION

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be hosting a Quarter Auction at the Holy Cross Parish Hall on Sunday, February 25 beginning at 1 pm. Ticket prices are \$25 which includes a hot lunch from Mission BBQ.

All in paddles may be purchased for \$25. Quarter paddles are \$8, and items will range from \$.25 to \$1. Please contact Linda Darling at 302-233-2246 for more information and to reserve a ticket.

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 GATH-

MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY/FEBRUARY

29 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am June Clacher

30 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Steve Welde

31 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Galen Purcell

1 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Kitty Litrenta (LI)
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

2 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Tony Ambrosina

3 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Pauline Elizabeth Miozza
HC 5:00 pm Gregory & kBrian Shouldis and
Debra Shouldis Petrovich

4 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Bill Niebrzydowski
ICC 8:30 am Richard Mitchler
HC 9:30 am Ann and Augustine Furjanic
ICC 11:00 am Teresa Crenshaw
HC 11:30 am Juanita Lopez
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

ERING 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. 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.

FEB. 3/4, 2024

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

J. Bieker M. Casey
C. Bugglin J. Clendaniel

L. Curley
M. Rubino

LECTORS

D. Kilby
F. Urick

7:30 AM

C. Brown J. Davis
J. Chandler T. Dinan

T. Catipay
L. Thomas

LECTORS

K. Meire

9:30 AM

G. Wessel N. West
M. Wessel B. Whitworth

J. Beugre
C. Beugre
C. Imhof

LECTORS

R. Alderman
T. Baurys

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez
M. Richard

TBD

E. Pastori-
za

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

D. Smith

TBF

11:00 AM

LECTORS

S. Tucker

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. Cost is \$35 per ticket—tables of 8.

You can reach Linda by email at: ldarling@holycrossover.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: Segunda Sesión el martes 6 de febrero en el salón.

Reunión de Catequistas el 30 de enero a las 7:00 PM en el salón de conferencia de la oficina parroquial

Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación Sesión #5 el domingo 11, de febrero de 3:00 – 5:30PM en el salón.

Se necesitan voluntarios para participar en la dramatización de la Vía Crucis, anotarse con la Sra. Arline Dosman.

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: February 4th 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 February 11 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.

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 (*cancellation due to inclement weather on 1/16th will be made up date to be determined*)

"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 Class:

Next class is Sunday, February 18 and Wednesday, February 21.

Confirmation Retreat:

Saturday, January 27 - we will meet in the ELC building at 8 am

MOUNT 2000:

Please pray for our teens and chaperones who will be traveling to MOUNT 2000 next weekend for retreat.

Youth Group:

Due to illness, our meeting for January has been moved to Monday, January 29 at 6:30 pm in the Luke Room of the 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

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

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

First Communion: Prep Session #2 on Tuesday, February 6th, at 6:30pm promptly in parish hall.

Confirmation Prep: Session #5, Sunday February 11th, 3pm-5:30pm in the Parish Hall.

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.

We are down to the veritable wire here. Since September HCS has engaged in the open enrollment process. We didn't open the enrollment window earlier than usual because we wanted to provide the 180-day school year for re-upping for the 24-25 school year. Yes, while it is indeed true that we offer incentives with a built-in graduated application fee, the real reason behind the early re-enrollment process is because the time-frame for the online financial aid application closes on January 31, 2024. Believe me when I say that this is a hard and fast date. Absolutely no one will be granted the favor of an extension. Absolutely no one. We are down to the veritable wire here.

I share this information which comes out of the Diocesan Development Office with you as it was shared with me:

- *Each year through its Vision for the Future Education Trust, the diocese offers financial aid to a number of families who desire a Catholic education for their children but who cannot afford the full cost of tuition. Families with children in grades K-12 registered in an inter-parochial or diocesan parish school who believe they are in need of assistance are encouraged to apply.*
- *To be considered, parents must first submit an application to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment for evaluation. Please note that it is the policy of the diocese that tuition assistance will be granted to only those families whose children are officially registered in one of our schools. For this reason, enrollment must be official before tuition assistance can be offered.*
- *It is imperative parents understand that applications and all required documentation must be received by FACTS no later than January 31, 2024. There will be no exception to the deadline. Tuition assistance through the Diocese of Wilmington is provided to children attending grades K-12.*
- *Families currently receiving tuition assistance from the diocese must reapply for 2024-2025 consideration. Assistance is not automatically renewed from year to year.*
- *Also, the diocese will not consider incomplete applications.*
- ***WE ARE ACCEPTING 2022 W-2s. YOU DO NOT NEED TO WAIT FOR 2023 W-2s.**

All families are encouraged to apply for Tuition Assistance even if you don't feel it is needed right now. The reason being that in the future event of a change in the financial status of a family, the application is in place and inquiries can be made.

There is no shame in asking. There is no reason to be embarrassed. All information is kept confidential with FACTS and the Diocese. Our Tuition Office is sent the results so they can see if Holy Cross can assist a family whom the Diocese is not able to assist. No one else knows who applies for Financial Assistance. With the perpetual rise in the cost of living, it is an unfortunate truth that oftentimes budgeting and sacrificing for a Catholic school education does not fall very high on the list of needs. This is why Bishop Koenig encourages all parishioners to make a contribution to the Share in the Spirit campaign. Those funds are for the sole purpose of providing tuition assistance **for families who apply.**

Over the years I have known of many families who have been granted financial assistance, who reapply each year, and have been able to provide their children with a Catholic education for nine years. Qualifying families with multiple children receive assistance for each child. Even a little bit helps.

January 31 is right around the corner. Do this for your children. Do it now.

bers admired: Pink Anderson and Floyd Council. St. Angela Merici pulled off a similar naming event. You see, in the 16th century, St. Angela saw that there was a dire need to provide education to young girls. And so, she and several Third Order Franciscan women formed a religious community to take on this mission, and they called themselves the Company of St. Ursula (and after the death of St. Angela, became known as the Ursulines). Now, you may ask, why are they called Ursulines? Was there an Ursula in the group of founders? Nope! St. Angela named the group for St. Ursula, a Virgin-Martyr, who was commonly invoked in that era as the Patron Saint of education. And so as Pink Floyd honored two blues musicians with their name, St. Angela Merici did homage to St. Ursula by naming what would later become a full-fledged religious order after her. The Ursulines are still active today, and in our Diocese, they operate the Ursuline Academy in Wilmington.

January 28 – St Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church. Ironic nicknames are always entertaining: The tall guy nicknamed Shorty, a bald guy nicknamed Curly, and the biggest and strongest of Robin Hood's Merry Men, nicknamed Little John. Similarly, St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the greatest theological writers and thinkers in history, was a member of the club of folks with ironic nicknames. You see, when St. Thomas Aquinas joined the Dominicans and began his studies he was very quiet. As a matter of fact as a student he was so very quiet that his classmates assumed him not too bright and dubbed him a "dumb ox." And that name stuck. His instructor, St. Albert the Great, famously zinged back to the name-callers: "You call him the dumb ox, but in his teaching he will one day produce such a bellowing that it will be heard throughout the world." St. Albert was proved right! Aquinas was ordained a priest and went on to earn a doctorate; soon after, he became head of studies at the University of Paris. It was there that he wrote his seminal work, the "*Summa Theologica*," a systematic compilation of all-things theological. But as smart as Thomas was, he was also humble. Nearing the end of this work, Aquinas experienced a divine revelation. This revelation and experience of God was so profound that it made him realize that his many volumes and volumes of theological works were, in his words, just "so much straw" compared to the reality of God. He died less than a year later. But his works remain pivotal to the Church. And that ironically dubbed "Dumb Ox" remains, somewhat, the house theologian for the Catholic Church, and his works are required for study at all Catholic seminaries in the world. St. Thomas Aquinas is the Patron Saint of Catholic Schools and students.

January 31 – St. John Bosco, Priest: Okay, I have to confess, as a kid I thought there was a connection between St. John Bosco and the awesome Bosco Chocolate Syrup that you used to put in milk to make the most outrageously sweet chocolate milk in the universe. I thought, surely, he must have invented it – and they made him a saint because it was so dang good! Yeah, I loved Bosco. But I learned that I was wrong about the Bosco-connection. However, I also learned that St. John Bosco, like Bosco Chocolate Syrup, was a popular figure with the youth of his era. Here's his story: Following the death of his parent, John Bosco did magic tricks to raise money to support his family. After his performances, he would often repeat, to the boys who were a big part of his audience, what the Priest preached at Church that day, and he often managed to get their attention and keep them close to their faith. In 1841, John Bosco, answering God's call, was ordained a priest. In his ministry as a Priest, Fr. John Bosco worked intently with youth: he taught, he preached, he guided, and he befriended. He sought to find all different ways to keep young people close to the Church and to their faith. He set aside time for them to learn, pray and play. He founded the Salesians to educate boys and young men in the faith, and then founded the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians to educate girls and young women. He was canonized in 1934 and is the Patron Saint of young people. While the chocolate delight of Bosco has gone the way of Betamax tapes, St. John Bosco hasn't. He still has an influence on our Church especially in its commitment to our youth and their faith lives. And it doesn't get sweeter than that!

So, as we enter this year's Catholic Schools Week, let's reflect on these great saints at the tail-end of January who, in living their lives of faith, promoted the knowledge and the love of Jesus Christ, whether in schools, in everyday life, or even on the Road to Damascus. St. Francis de Sales, St. Paul, St. Angela Merici, St. Thomas Aquinas, and St. John Bosco, pray for us!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor