



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 2, 2022

Epiphany

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
No choirs at the Masses at the present time; a cantor will be available for the 5 pm and the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday and Friday, 12:10 pm
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

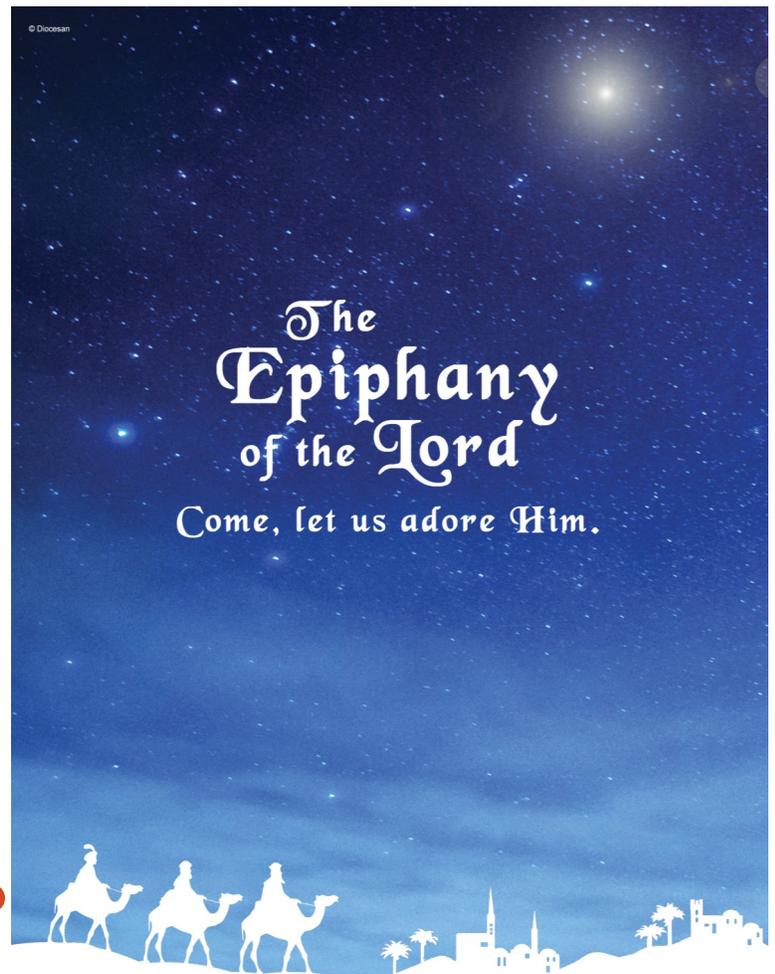
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm



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.

A HUGE THANK YOU

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY FOR THIS CHRISTMAS. THE SAMARITANS HAVE PROVIDED A TURKEY/HAM CHRISTMAS BASKET WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS FOR 90 FAMILIES WHICH CONSIST OF 206 ADULTS AND 294 CHILDREN.

ALSO IN 2021, YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS HAVE FED 1,001 FAMILIES CONSISTING OF 2,154 ADULTS AND 3,549 CHILDREN.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

December 19, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$29,194	\$26,725	\$2,469
YTD	\$648,105	\$649,475	(\$1,370)
Needs	\$2,007	\$1,480	\$527
Christmas	\$8,711	\$35,000	(\$26,289)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending December 19, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,460
Flowers	\$401
SVDP silent auction	\$3,050

For Holy Cross, you can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card.

We appreciate your generosity to the church.

Dear Parishioners,

On September 1, 1890, September 7, 1896, and October 2, 1920 something occurred in Major League Baseball that never happened before 1890 nor since 1920. It was an event that ESPN could only dream about, an event that the players' union would undoubtedly complain about, and an event that none of us has ever witnessed. On those three days of yesteryear, The Brooklyn Bridegrooms (that was the actual team name) playing the Pittsburgh Alleghenys (1890), the Baltimore Orioles playing the Louisville Colonels (1896), and the Pittsburgh Pirates playing the Cincinnati Reds (1920) all played "Triple Headers." Yep, on those three dates, those six teams each played three back-to-back baseball games.

Baseball Dream. Today, a double-header is a rarity, and a triple-header would be considered nothing more than a wild dream of a fan at Citizens Bank Park after one too many beers. And just for the record, the Brooklyn Bridegrooms and the Baltimore Orioles swept all three games of their triple header, and suffice to say, the Pittsburgh Pirates did not (always nice to see that some things never change; they lost 101 games this past season). But, yes, those three dates still remain the only triple-headers held in Baseball history.

Our Triple. This weekend we have a triple-header of sorts. This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1), the Solemnity of the Epiphany (this year on January 2), and the civil New Year (January 1).

Mary, Mother of God. While the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, as it lands on Saturday, it is still an important day in the Church as it caps the Octave of Christmas (the eight days of Christmas that are to be celebrated with great joy and solemnity). This high holy day was formerly known as the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord, until 1970. The readings of the Mass remain that same as they did for the old feast, but focused shifted from the act of Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to be circumcised (following the laws of Judaism), to Mary as a mother raising her child in the faith (thus bringing him to be circumcised).

Epiphany. The Solemnity of the Epiphany is one of the highest holy days of the Church year; in most of the world it is observed on January 6 (the twelfth day of Christmas) in the United States and Canada it is transferred to the Sunday nearest January 2 (this year that would actually be January 2). This feast day, commonly called "Three Kings

Day," celebrates Jesus manifestation (being made known) to the world, in the form of his visitation by Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. With their gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, the three kings honored Christ as king (gold), God (frankincense, an incense offered only to God), and man (myrrh, used to prepare a body for burial after its death).

New Years Day. Not a Church event, but a civil one, it is nonetheless observed by people around the world, in the Church and outside the Church, as the start of a new calendar year. A calendar year whose number is normed by the birth of Jesus Christ. This year marks 2,022nd year since Christ was born, or as it is sometimes expressed 2022 A.D. (anno domini, or the "year of the Lord"). This is the day when people look with hope to the year ahead, and often make resolutions to improve themselves or their lot in life. As Catholics, our New Year started on the first Sunday of Advent, so we have a head-start in improving not just our lot in life but also improving our faithfulness and trust in God. It is providential that New Years begins on the final day of the Christmas Octave (January 1), a period of high celebrations of a holy birth of our Savior. There would be no better way to cap off that Octave than to make a resolution to strengthen your commitment to the Catholic faith, a faith built on a Savior who redeems us.

Within this column, I cannot not focus on all three parts of our triple header in depth, so let me turn my focus to today's Solemnity, the Epiphany.

Looks Like Reign. In countries where a King (not the Elvis type) is the sovereign leader, he reigns and people are subjects to his rule. England, would be an example of that: England has a monarch (Queen Elizabeth) – and the residents of Great Britain are not commonly called citizens, they are rather identified subjects of the Monarch. As it was in Christ's time, so it is still with monarchies today: When the Monarch has a child, a proclamation goes out declaring the birth of the child, and declaring his given name. Then the child is presented to the King (his father) and then to the other members of the royal family and the Lords, and then finally – last on the list – to the people of the Kingdom.

It's a Boy. The Epiphany of Christ our Lord, is a reflection of that monarchical tradition, but with one drastic change. You see, when Christ was born in Bethlehem, a proclamation did indeed go

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mano Salla	Parochial Vicar

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/Susan Cutrona	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

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

A new year has begun. Perhaps you've made a New Year's Resolution. Perhaps not. Today, just think about today! What kindness can you offer your beloved today.

PARENTING POINTERS

What difference has Baptism made in your life? Think about something specific. Once you have your own answer, talk to your children about their baptisms. Perhaps show photos. Reenact it.

SVDP MEETING (IC)

St. Vincent de Paul meeting will meet from now on in the office building every month on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP (IC)

We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 AM in the ICC Parish Hall.

Knitters & crocheters welcome. Questions call Karen Cairns 302-382-9316.

KNITTING GROUP (HC)

Holy Cross ladies meet every Tuesday at 10 am in the St. Luke Room, second floor of the Early Learning Center building to knit and/or crochet for approximately 90 minutes. They make shawls, lap blankets, etc. Any fellow knitter/crocheter is welcome to join.

READINGS FOR JANUARY 9

BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11

The prophet consoles God's people who are in exile in Babylon.

SECOND READING: TIMOTHY 2:11-14; 3:4-7

The writer tells us that God saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-16, 21-22

At his baptism, Jesus hears the voice of God his Father: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favor rests on you."

Men of the HOLY CROSS



THE MINISTRY OF MEN TO MEN

MEN OF THE HOLY CROSS (NEW AND MORE CONVENIENT MEETINGS)

It is now easier than ever for you to join the Men of The Holy Cross! You are welcome to come in person or participate from the comfort of your home, sitting in your favorite chair with a cup of coffee. Thanks to our newest innovation (a state of the art "Meeting Owl" which makes you feel like you are there in person), all you need is your smartphone, tablet or computer. Just type in or click on the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting set up and join our hybrid meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/30861480> Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM (time certain) for prayer, gospel reflections, Church teachings and timely discussions. Even for busy men who are constantly on the go, it has never been more convenient for you to give us a try; our meetings are as close as your phone!

CATHOLIC FORUM

Happy New Year from Catholic Forum. Catholic Forum returns from the holiday break on January 8th when Mr. Rusty Gilles from St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Hockessin, Delaware will discuss the history of the parish as they begin their 250th anniversary year. 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.

MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY

3 MONDAY HC 8:00 am	Sheila Berninger
4 TUESDAY HC 8:00 am	June Pennewell (LI)
5 WEDNESDAY HC 8:00 am	James Canalicchio
6 THURSDAY HC 8:00 am ICC 6:30 pm	Ann Bajor For the People
7 FRIDAY HC 8:00 am	Grace Jara
8 SATURDAY HC 8 am HC 5 pm	Louise Quinn Amiela & Aleksander Grydz
9 SUNDAY HC 7:30 am ICC 8:30 am HC 9:30 am ICC 11 am HC 11:30 am ICC 1 pm	Bernice Nissen Catherine Beck Michael McLaughlin Catherine Beck Amelia Rorquillo For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MAR- RIAGE

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. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 11-13, 2022 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.

faith in action

HOLY CROSS JAN 8/9, 2022

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Bieker J. Clendaniel G. Coyle
C. Bugglin F. Ernst M. Coyle
M. Casey L. Curley

LECTORS

J. Davis
H. Showell

7:30 AM C. Brown A. Fischer E. Bydlon
J. Chandler J. Fischer E. Wadhams
J. Davis

LECTORS

D. Kilby

9:30 AM T. Arndt S. Ford C. Beugre
K. Boyer N. West J. Buggre
P. Ford E. Seelig

LECTORS

T. Baurys
J. Coffield

11:30 AM R. Ramirez R. Richards K. Espinosa
B. Guzman E. Guzman C. Geronimo

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM J. Tormey, Jr.

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

11:00 AM A. Poppiti

LECTORS

L. Schlaupitz

1:00 PM

LECTORS

R. DeLeon

SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendar! Designer Purse Bingo will be here on **Saturday evening, April 2.**



More information to follow soon - please come support our youth attending Catholic Heart Work Camp in Greensboro, NC this coming summer.

WANTED—PICKUP TRUCK (HC)

Looking for a place to donate your good condition used pick up truck. Holy Cross Parish is in need of a used pick up truck for our maintenance department. Our current pick up has died and is beyond repair. If you have, or know of someone who would like to donate a used pickup that is in good condition to the parish, please contact the Parish Office, extension 113. Thank you for your consideration.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY 7 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm

THURSDAY 12 pm, 2 pm

FRIDAY 7 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 8 pm

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences and prayers to the families of:

- Dr. Rafael Zaragoza
- May they rest in peace. Amen.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Sienna Michelle Strickland
- Logan Joseph Tesno

NUESTA FAMILIA HISPANA

- Primer domingo del Año Nuevo 2022y también donde se celebra la solemnidad de la Epifanía del Señor, conocido como día de Reyes, El Evangelio de San Mateo (2,1-12) relata la historia de los magos. Epifanía significa "manifestación". Jesús se da a conocer. Aunque Jesús se dio a conocer en diferentes momentos a diferentes personas, la Iglesia celebra como epifanías tres eventos:
- Su Epifanía ante los Magos de Oriente: Se trata de una manifestación a los paganos, para poner de relieve que el Niño Dios que nace, viene para salvarnos a todos, independientemente de nuestra raza.
- Su Epifanía del Bautismo del Señor: Manifestación a los judíos por medio de San Juan Bautista.
- Su Epifanía de las Bodas de Caná: Manifestación a Sus discípulos y comienzo de Su vida pública por intercesión de su Madre María. Tendremos nuestra tradicional Rosca de Reyes. Los reyes llegaran para adorar al Niño y darles aguinaldo a nuestros niños. Si usted desea colaborar con una Rosca o con una olla de atole o champurrado hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- Sinodalidad el Papa Francisco ha invitado a toda la Iglesia a un Sínodo cuyo título es «Por una Iglesia sinodal: Una Iglesia sinodal es una Iglesia que escucha, recuerde que escuchar es más que oír. Donde todos tenemos algo que aportar y todos formamos la iglesia y en la cual cada uno tiene algo que aprender del otro. Una iglesia sinodal es una iglesia fraterna, en comunión, participación y misión. La palabra "sínodo" significa "caminar juntos" —laicos, inmigrantes, ricos, pobres, todas las razas y lenguas incluyendo los que están en la periferia, el clero, el magisterio todos somos hijos de Dios hecho a su imagen y semejanza — es un concepto fácil de expresar con palabras, pero qué difícil es ponerlo en práctica. Hay un gran trabajo que hacer para poder tener una iglesia sinodal,

tenemos que aprender que todos tenemos algo que aportar, pero es necesario la participación, el escuchar y el caminar juntos. Pidamos al Espíritu Santo que nos guíe en este "Caminar juntos". La Diócesis de Wilmington esta trabajando para formar un proceso de consulta donde se le invita a la participación en un futuro no muy lejano.

- 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
- Symbolon Explicación de la fe católica: Viviendo la fe católica. Estamos ofreciendo una serie de videos / libros de estudio una vez más El costo es de \$ 25 para el libro del participante Parte 2.
- En español en la parroquia de la Santa Cruz. Con el padre Oscar y la Sra. Arline. Todos los viernes a las 6:00 – 8:00 PM de la tarde el ELC a partir de enero. Si está interesado hable con la Sra. Arline. En ingles en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción con la Sra. Alicia. Todos los lunes a las 7:00P.M. La primera parte continuara hasta el 13 de diciembre y la segunda parte comenzara después del Año Nuevo.

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA (ICC)

- No habrá clases el 26 de diciembre ni el 2 de enero 2022. Se reanudarán el día 9 de enero 2022.
- 1ra Reconciliación Prep- próxima sesión es el Retiro sábado, 8 de enero, 2022 en el salón, 2022 @9am-12mediodía.
- Sacramento 1ra Reconciliación: sábado, 22 de enero, 2022 a las 11:00am at Holy Cross, Dover.
- Prep candidatos a la Confirmación – próximo domingo 16 de enero, 2022 a las 2:30-5pm en el salón.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: January 9, 2022

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office.
- 7th and 8th graders are in the Holy Cross Junior High building.
- No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter either building.
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY.
- Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.

Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows:

- Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and Sacramental Prep – 5:15pm
- Grades K-1 -5:20pm
- Grades 2- 5:25pm
- Grades 3-4 5:30pm

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

 Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class January 9 at 10:30am-12:30pm in the Matthew/Mark Room;

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Next Class for Confirmation:

Sunday, January 9 at 2 and 4 pm and Wednesday, January 12 at 6 pm.

Confirmation Retreats:

Reminder to please email your choice of dates for retreat to ldarling@holycrossdover.org

SRE (IC)

There will be no SRE on Sunday, January 2, due to the New Year Holiday.

SRE next classes: Classes will resume on Sunday, January 9t, 2022

Sacraments:

Youth confirmation prep- Next session will be Sunday, January 16, 2022 at 2:30-5pm in the hall

1st Reconciliation Prep- next session is the Retreat on Saturday, January 8th, 2022 in hall at 9am-12noon

Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation: Saturday, January 22, 2022 at 11:00am at Holy Cross, Dover.

Symbolon: will finish up on January 3rd.

Part 2: Living the Faith, will begin soon after, with schedule to be posted. You are welcome to join, no need to have participated in Part 1: Knowing the Faith, you can catch up later. You just need to register, so we can order your book.

Field trips. I'm not a fan. As a participant, that is. Field trips can be a fully enriched learning experience. Students enjoy field trips. They enjoy them for many of the same reasons that I don't particularly like them. They represent a complete disruption in routine. Students, for the most part don't mind that, actually many look forward to a break with the daily humdrum of the day. They enjoy the bus ride. It is a complete anathema to me. But, there has always been one thing, at the end of the whole experience that made it worth all of my perseverance. That is the representation of HCS by our students. Without fail, no matter where we went, who we saw, what we did, I was always paid the highest praise on the behavior, and level of respect shown by our students. This was particularly evident when other schools were participating in the same field trip.

A few years ago HC was invited to participate in an event sponsored by the Delaware General Assembly as they welcomed *Wreaths Across America* to the First State. Holy Cross was happy to receive an invitation again this year to participate in the event. A small delegation of eight was proud to represent Holy Cross School. We were proud to send them.



The party that walked down State Street to Legislative Hall was comprised of Mrs. Diane Belt, Mrs. Christina Klaus, Thomas E, Joseph C, Charlotte E, Lily C, Julianna S, and Zachary K. It will remain a pleasant memory as I recall the enthusiasm and appreciation for the event that was evident in all of the children upon their return to school. I believe the pictures tell the story better than I.

Remember, Honor, Teach



God Bless America

out about His birth, as it would with any royal birth. But the first people to be invited to see this newborn child – the first to whom He would be revealed – were not the royalty or the Lords or the Ladies of the day; nor the landowners or the kings – no, the shepherds, that is, the common folk, were the first to see this royal child. A complete reversal of royal traditions.

A Magi-cal Visit. After the common folk of the world gazed upon the face of their savior, their Lord, then and only then, did the royalty of the world gets a glimpse of this Prince of Peace. The Kings (called Magi) are among the last to come to that stable and see the child in the manger – and they did so on the 12th day of Christmas, which we call Epiphany. Though they were the last to visit, the visitation by the three Kings is nonetheless of great significance. Their visit represents Christ being made known to the several corners of the world. The word Epiphany itself means “manifestation” – that is, a making known. Once the Kings knew of Him, then it was deemed that all the nations knew of Him. Once the Kings knelt before Him (something unheard of), then the world knew that Jesus was not was not just some other child; He was God incarnate and was to be light to all nations. This visit represents all the world being made subject to a new king.

These Three Kings. Getting the right gift for someone is sometimes difficult. I remember the story of a husband who gave his wife an amazingly beautiful extravagant diamond necklace for Christmas. His friend saw this expensive looking gift and said “That’s a beautiful necklace, I can’t imagine how you could afford it. But didn’t your wife want new car for Christmas?” And the husband replied, “Yes, but where am I going to find a fake car?” Unlike the husband in the joke, the three kings get exactly the right (and real) gifts. What do these three kings –known as Melchior, Casper and Balthazar – bring the new born King? They don’t bring Him a gift card, or candy or Phillies tickets (maybe next year will be the winning season). No. They brought Him, the same things that we should bring Him.

Gold Plated. King Melchior is said to have brought gold. This is to symbolize the recognition of Christ’s royalty, His kingship. Walls of the ancient temples were often lined with gold, as were the palaces of the kings who were often thought of as connected to God somehow. And at Mass, the body and blood Christ is placed on a paten (plate) and in a chalice made not of clay, not of glass but of very often made of gold – a noble metal fit for a king. And we should be bring Him gold also. That is to say, we should bring Him our recognition of His status as our Lord, our Savior, our King and our God.

A Scents-ible Gift. King Caspar is said to have given frankincense. Frankincense is a type of incense that comes from the sap of trees found in Persia. It was used for centuries before Christ as a fragrance offered to God in worship. And so, this fragrance usually offered to God alone, is offered today to this child, recognizing that He is no ordinary child, but rather He is a child worthy of worship and adoration – He is God among us. He is one whose sweetness will pale, the sweetness of the frankincense. And we too, like the Kings, should offer to God that which is proper to God, our heavenly King – like faith, trust, adoration, and love. The incense of our sweet prayers should always rise up to our sweet Lord.

An Arrivaderci Aroma. King Balthazar is said to have brought myrrh in a jeweled cup. Myrrh was a type of an embalming scent used to prepare the dead. This would be an odd gift to give a new born; but this gift was a foreshadowing of the coming death of this child, a death prepared for by this gift at the time of His birth – a redemptive death that would give new life to us. And we too, like the Kings should bring to Christ the myrrh of our recognition of His value and the redeeming power of His death and resurrection. We should be prepared to die with Christ, die to ourselves – take on that aroma of myrrh – and therein rise with Him.

A Gift for Us. Even today these gifts given to Christ should be remembered for their significance in Christ’s Epiphany –His being made known to the world. These gifts given by Kings to a King recognized the royal nature of our Savior. Let us be like these three wise men, these three kings, lets follow the star –the light of Christ – and be willing to offer our recognition of who this child is. He is Jesus Christ, the one and the only Savior of mankind, and God’s gift to us. There is no other. Happy Epiphany to all of you.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor