



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 30, 2022

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
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

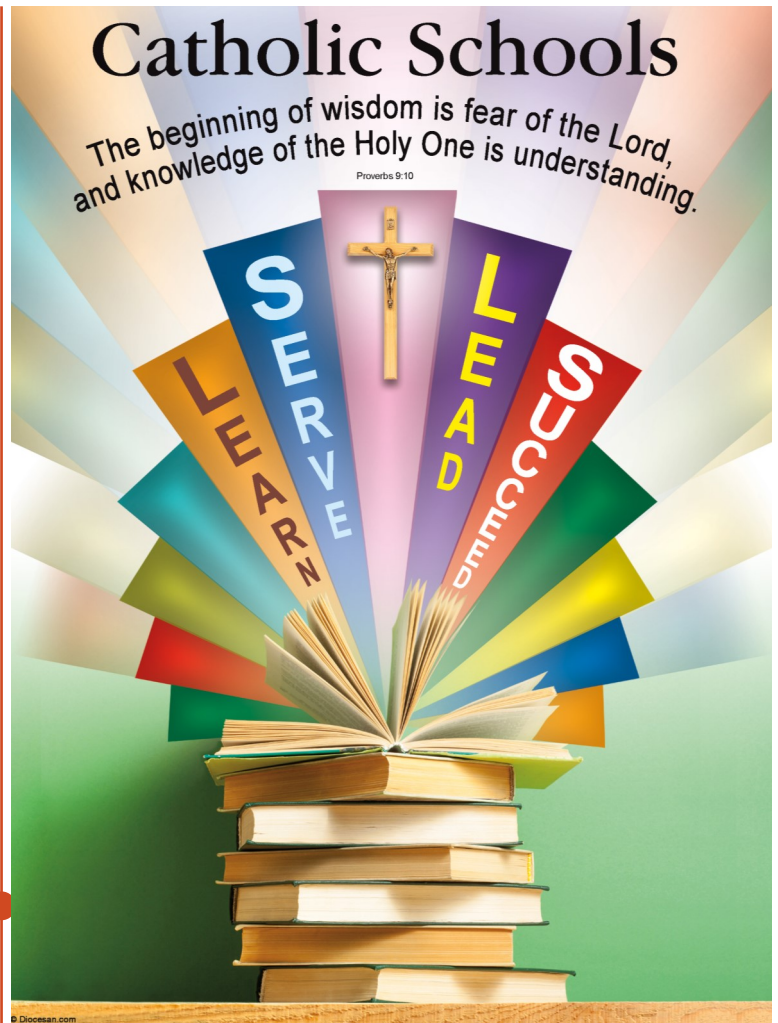
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



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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.

In response to the rising numbers of positive COVID-19 cases, particularly the Omicron variant, the Diocese of Wilmington is issuing new COVID-19 protocols for all parishes effective January 6, 2022.

- Clergy and volunteers are **STRONGLY ENCOURAGED**, to obtain COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters.
- Clergy and Liturgical ministers at all parishes are encouraged to wear masks, except when speaking publicly.
- Parishes are to encourage all attendees to be masked while attending Mass.
- Mass attendees over the age of 5 who are not vaccinated for COVID-19 must wear a mask.
- Ministries and non-liturgical parish activities should be carefully evaluated and, if possible, held virtually or with limited contact.
 - o This effort includes third-party use of facilities, such as Scouts, community groups, etc.
 - o Parishes should consider rescheduling in-person social gatherings scheduled for January or February to later in the year.
- Clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion must carefully adhere to proper hand sanitization following the distribution of communion on the tongue.
- Parishes may continue to make holy water available in fonts.
- Filled hand sanitizing dispensers should be available at entrances.
- Clergy should be mindful about social distancing and hand shaking when greeting parishioners before and after Mass.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

January 16, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$25,197	\$26,000	(\$803)
YTD	\$764,470	\$754,200	\$10,270
Needs	\$1,028	\$1,480	(\$452)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending January 16, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,119
2nd collection	\$271

For tax statements for ICC, please contact the ICC Parish Office.

Tax Statements

The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2021 year. If we have your email in our records, this information will be emailed to you by the end of January. If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossover.org. Thank you.

Dear Parishioners,

This past week, on Tuesday, January 25, the Catholic Church observed the high-holy day of the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul; celebrating when St. Paul, who would go on to greatest evangelist of all-time, came to faith in Jesus Christ. On that holy day, we are very much remind of the power of conversion. Conversion is a key value of our Christian belief – we are always and everywhere called to conversion. When we slide away from being faithful, we are called to conversion – and draw ourselves back to God. Now, St. Paul's conversion was profound, going from a persecutor of Christians to a Christian evangelist in mere moments, but our own conversions in everyday life are also important, and should be inspired by him.

Take me to Your Liter. Now there are lots of non-spiritual conversions we experience in life, like when we convert measurements from imperial measure (inches, feet) to that of the metric system (centimeters, meters). In the format wars of the early video era, there were people who converted from Betamax to VHS. In the cell phone carrier battle, conversions from AT&T to Verizon to T-Mobile happen all the time. And, there are other conversions, too: Moving from caffeinated to decaf (Heaven forbid), from PCs to Macs (godspeed), and even (Heaven help us all) betraying the logic of the universe and moving from McDonalds to Burger King.

Of Hearts and Hamburgers. We change lots of things in our lives. However, having a conversion or change of heart, in the realm of faith, is a little tougher than going from a Big Mac to Whopper (although for me, it might be a comparable challenge). But, tough though it may be, we are called to conversion.

Conversion and All that Jazz. In 1981, jazz guitarist George Benson hit the top ten of the American pop charts with a song with a conversion-type title, "Turn Your Love Around." That title sums up a key to conversion – we have to turn our love around. If God is not the center of life, we have to turn things around. Amidst the twang of his guitar, Benson sang, "You've got the love, you've got the power, but you just don't understand." Indeed we sometimes don't understand the place of primacy that God is to have in our lives. But we have the love and the power to make the need change.

Slip Sliding Away. Conversion is always called for because people are often, to quote singer Paul Simon's 1977 hit song, "slip slidin' away"? Thus,

when we are slip sliding away from Mass attendance, we are called to conversion – and return to worship the God. When we are slip sliding away from prayer, we are called to conversion – to open ourselves up the Lord again. Likewise, we are unfaithful to a spouse, defrauding of a customer, hateful of another, etc., we are called to conversion – to come back to where we ought to be.

It Don't Come Easy. We are called to straighten up and fly right, to make conversion. And yes, that's easier said than done. When it comes to conversion, to quote Ringo Starr's 1973 hit, "You know it don't come easy." But, we are blessed, because in our Catholic faith, there have been many conversions that we can look to, to inspire us. Some of these conversions did not just change the person making the conversion, but changed the world. To this end I present you five game-changing conversions in Catholic Church history:

The Conversion of St. Paul. Saul of Tarsus was a persecutor of Christians; he hated them. He saw Christianity as upending the way of life of the Jewish peoples, and causing divisions. He sought out to arrest Christian, persecute them, and even kill them. As tradition and scripture relate, one day on the road to Damascus, Saul was traveling to torment some more Christians. On that road he was suddenly, in the words of the 1977 hit song, "blinded by the light." There was a flash; he was thrown from his horse. Unable to see he lay on the ground and the voice of Christ spoke to him. That encounter with Christ, change his life. When he got his sight back in three day, he saw the world differently; soon after this he was baptized and became known as Paul. St. Paul went from being an enemy of Christianity to its biggest evangelical agent. He spread Christianity to the Gentiles (non-Jews) bringing it from Jerusalem throughout Mediterranean Europe and into to Rome. He was ultimately beheaded, in Rome, for his evangelizing.

The Conversion of St. Augustine. Young St. Augustine had many question about life, and he followed various philosophers looking for answer. None filled his soul with the answers he wanted. During this time, and up until his early 30s, Augustine also lived raucous, promiscuous and bacchanalian life style. To quote a famous country song, he "was lookin' for love in all the wrong places." Then one day, when he was in his 30s, he heard St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan preach, and he heard the beginnings of the an-

(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 8Is
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

Why not be wise and bring your spouse three compliments. Consider your beloved's physical appearance, a unique talent, and an act of kindness.

PARENTING POINTERS

Have fun with your children by joking about frivolous unlucky things that have happened in your life. Then turn it around and talk about times when you were really lucky.

During these mostly indoor days of winter, challenge each family member to let go of something they no longer need – a toy, a piece of clothing, a book, old papers...

SVDP MEETING (IC)

St. Vincent de Paul meeting will be suspended due to the increase in COVID cases until May.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP (IC)

The Prayer Shawl Group will be suspended due to the increase in COVID cases until May. Questions call Karen Cairns 302-382-9316.

KNITTING CLUB (HC)

Holy Cross ladies normally meet every Tuesday at 10 am in the St. Luke Room, second floor of the Early Learning Center building to knit. At this time we are suspending the meetings until further notice due to the increase in COVID cases.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, February 5th, learn about the devastating tornados that demolished parts of Kentucky, when Dr. Patricia Williams, a Mayfield, Kentucky physician, is the guest. 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.

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 6 5TH ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 6:1-8

A vision of God's holiness and glory left the prophet Isaiah feeling wretchedly unclean. Nevertheless, Isaiah became God's messenger.

SECOND READING : 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

Paul to whom the resurrected Jesus appeared, also felt unworthy.

GOSPEL: LUKE 5:1-11

Peter way another who felt unfit to be in the company of Jesus. Assured of God's favor, he was sent out to become a fisher of people.



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!

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences and prayers to the families of:

- *Lauren Michelle Hughes Meyers, Geraldine Green, Silvia Muniz, Douglas Van Sant, Alton Latchum*
- May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest member who was recently baptized:

- *Greta James Temple*

MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY/FEBRUARY

31 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Joseph Staier
1 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Gerald G. Vernice
2 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	George Behlen
3 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Walter M. Slivar Jr.
ICC 6:30 pm	For the People
4 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Bev. Bresnahan
5 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Amelia Ronquillo
HC 5 pm	Gregory, Brian Shouldis & Deborah Shouldis Petrovich
6 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Scott Levoie
ICC 8:30 am	Sharon Welsh
HC 9:30 am	Anna & Gus Furjanic
ICC 11 am	William Schwartz
HC 11:30 am	Lisa V. Anzalone
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

faith in action

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. 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.

HOLY CROSS FEB 5/6, 2022

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM M. Casey D. MacLeish A. Torbert
C. Helwig D. Novack B. Torbert
F. Hettinger C. Torbert

LECTORS

J. Cuyjet Davis
H. Showel

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

LECTORS

D. Kilby

9:30 AM T. Arndt S. Ford E. Bydlon
K. Boyer N. West K. Fernandez
P. Ford G. Maddalena

LECTORS

C. Parks
T. Baurys

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

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM S. Bell

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM L. Schlaupitz

LECTORS

D. King

1:00 PM To be determined

LECTORS

B. Gonzalez

ATTENTION ALL EXTRA-ORDINARY
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION

Parishioners in need of our Homebound Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds, and we need more EM's who are willing to become part of our homebound ministry. We serve nursing homes, assisted living facilities, the hospital, and those at home.

Please consider joining this ministry. We will train you and have you shadow another EM to get you ready. Call the Parish Office so we can get you started. Please pray to discern if this ministry would be for you. We need your help!!

Call 302-674-5787,
ext. 110 or 113 to leave your name.

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.

VIRTUAL BASKET AUCTION FUNDRAISER

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be sponsoring a virtual Basket Auction on Sunday, February 27th at 1:00 P.M. There will be dozens of wonderful baskets to take a chance on. Tickets are \$25.00 for a single sheet (20 chances to win) or \$15.00 for a half sheet (10 chances to win)! They may be purchased by sending a check made payable to Delaware State Columbiettes with your name, email and phone number, to Arlene Brown, 87 Paige Place, Felton, DE 19943 (amb550@hotmail.com).

We will email you your ticket number and the Zoom information prior to the event if you would like to attend. If you cannot attend, we will contact to you if you win! TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY February 23rd! We look forward to having you join us for a fun filled afternoon.

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 10 am, 12 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

We really need volunteers to take some time on Saturday and Sunday. Please consider taking one hour in the chapel to spend with Jesus.

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANA

- preparémonos para "La Cuaresma como Camino gradual de Conversión" gran Retiro
- Presentado por el Rev. Juan Alberto Cárdenas. Sacerdote Agustino de Colombia
- Fecha :26 de febrero, 2022. Hora 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- donación: \$15 para los alimentos
- Parroquia La Inmaculada Concepción. Dirección 522 Main St. Marydel, Maryland 21649
- Habrá confesiones, Hora Santa, charlas, música y reflexiones y mucho más.
-
- No habrá la celebración de la Candelaria en la parroquia, pero si usted va a tener una levantada en su hogar con mucho cuidado. Recuerde que todavía estamos con el contagio del virus.
- 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 el13 de diciembre y la segunda parte comenzara después del Año Nuevo.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

- Clases de preparación para la Primera Comunion comienza el martes, 8 de febrereroo de 2022 de 6:30 a 7:30 de la tarde.
- Prep candidatos a la Confirmación – próximo domingo 13 de febrereroo, 2022 a las 2:30-5pm en el salón.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: February 6 3:30 to 5:30 pm

- 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 Feb 6th. [See email from Deacon Vince with instructions](#)

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

Adult Eductaion (HC)

The Bible in a Year Podcast

“In The Bible in a Year podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes. Using an exclusive reading plan rooted in The Bible Timeline (a ground-breaking approach to understanding salvation history developed by Biblical scholar Jeff Cavins) you won’t just read the Bible ... you’ll finally understand how all the pieces fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!” Also available in Spanish led by Father Sergio Serrano. See the links below:

In English:

Father Mike Schmitz
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>



In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration>



YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Retreats:

Please advise which retreat your child will attend - Feb 5 or Feb 12
ldarling@holycrossdover.org
Palanca letters should be dropped off at the Parish Office - in envelope with your childs' name on front.

Youth Group:

Next Youth Group Meeting- please mark your calendar for March 26. Junior High - 3-4:30 High School 6-7:30

Catholic Heart Work Camp Meeting:

Tuesday, March 15 at 7 pm in the ELC Matthew/Mark room upstairs. Any 8th through 1st year college teens interested in attending Greensboro camp July 17 to 23 are asked to attend. Registration and fundraising will be discussed.

SRE (IC)

All classes are meeting from 9:40-10:50am every Sunday in classrooms. Please park, walk your children to hall, and pick up in front of the hall. Please be on time and pick up by 10:55am. Masks are still required for students and teachers. If you are not feeling well, please stay home and take care of yourself.

Sacraments: (IC)

1stCommunion Prep: Next class on, Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:30-7:30pm in the hall. Please be on time.

Youth confirmation prep- Next session will be Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 2:30-5pm in the hall

Symbolon (IC)

Part 2: Living the Faith, will begin on Monday, January 24th at 7 pm and run until 9 pm.

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.

I try. Everyday. I try. Sometimes I can say I achieved what I set out to do, and sometimes I can't. But each day I go to school with at least one achievable goal. Each new morning of the weekend, I set at least one achievable goal. On Sunday mornings, my goal is to complete the essay that appears weekly in our school newsletter and the Parish bulletin. Short term, achievable goals accomplished make me feel so much better at the end of the day. A whispered woohoo said only to myself can be gratifying.

Last week I praised faculty and staff members who began their teaching careers as substitute teachers for their allegiance to HCS. All in all, there are ten current staff members who fall into this category, just about a third of our staff. I am allotted only so much space each week in the Parish bulletin. Therefore, this week, I continue my tribute and note of thanksgiving to those who have discovered their vocation and chosen to serve HCS.

Mrs. Ann Rider: I can truly say that I pressed Mrs. Rider pretty hard. I needed a teacher for Kindergarten; but she didn't need a job. Trying to talk her into the mere consideration of my great offer was a feat all unto itself! I thought I had her when she said she would discuss it with her family, and get back to me. Falling just short of a stalker, I waited. Mrs. Rider was a dedicated substitute and she seemed content with just that. Mrs. Rider had taught before and I tried to use that to my advantage telling her the classroom was calling her name.... Mrs. Rider's children graduated from HC, and her youngest had just started high school. The time was right, and the need was apparent. Mrs. Rider has been teaching in K-2 for six years now. I'll always remember that day in the library when I practically cornered her, and all she had for me was, "Oh, I don't know, Mrs. Pollitt." Well Mrs. Rider, I knew!

Mrs. Bernadette Kolakowski: It was a goal of hers, Mrs. K. always wanted to be a full-time school nurse at HC. Until that day should come, she satisfied herself with the occasional substitute nurse opportunities; during which time all four of her children, Emily, Thomas, Peter, and Claire called HCS their second home. It was such a pleasure for me to have the privilege of offering Mrs. Kolakowski the full-time nursing position upon its availability. The teachers and students love her for her compassionate and humble soft-spoken manner, not to mention the crackers, and ginger ale! It's coming up on two years now that Mrs. Kolakowski and I have ridden the rough and rocky waves brought on by the pandemic. Her deep faith in God, her inner resilience and strength have seen her through days that would have sent the faint of heart running for the hills. She personifies God-given fortitude during times when it is needed most.

Mrs. Angela Bifferato: Talk about life taking you down a different path! I knew who she was, but we had never met. She and her family were on their way to the Fall Festival and she was pushing the baby stroller. The baby was Avery, now in fifth grade. Her older son, Chase was then a student at HC. A stay-at-home mom, and happy to be so; somehow during my initial years in administration she began to substitute in the classroom. Truly, to this day, I don't know how it happened! Always bright and cheery, Mrs. Bifferato subbed for us on many occasions. It was mid-school year when the JH Office Coordinator position opened up. In a discussion with Mrs. Stant, we agreed that if Mrs. Bifferato would accept the offer, the position would be hers. She did!! Over the past eight or so years I have amassed such an admiration for her stick-to-it-tiveness; my word for grit, patience and determination. "I will figure this out!" And she does. That is classic Mrs. Bifferato. This year, Mrs. Bifferato assumed a new role. With her characteristic determination and willingness, she has taken on the responsibility of the Publication Design class. Her Crusaders are fortunate to have her at the helm the Good Ship Yearbook.

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Riecks: It was a goal of hers for a long time. As a graduate of Holy Cross High School, Mrs. Riecks had all intentions of pursuing a career following her graduation from JMU. Mary Kate and Daniel, her two children were born and she became a full-time wife and mom. Years later, Mary Kate and Daniel were enrolled at HCS, (where else??) and Mrs. Riecks pursued a second degree in Education. We first met when she worked as a substitute teacher. Our paths didn't often cross back then. But over the past twenty or so years that she and I have been colleagues, I have grown to admire her self-less giving of time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of HC. Countless are the times that she has helped at school functions, even when she didn't have any role to play in its coordination. There are no words that fit my gratitude for her help in all scheduling matters. Lost is the word I would use to describe where I'd be without her. She plans her summer vacation around Powerschool deadlines. On Day One of the school year each student is given their daily schedule. She assumed the entire Science program and tamed the beast that would have surely defeated me; that beast is the LabLearner curriculum. She engineered the entire design and implementation of the Science portion of the Renaissance Star Standardized Testing protocol in response to our need to fulfill our Middle States goal. Following each administration of the test, she tabulates all of the results!! Odyssey of the Mind would not exist if not for Mrs. Riecks. The parents and students have the highest respect for Mrs. Riecks because she, like all HC teachers, teaches from the heart where selfless giving begins. It was a goal of hers for a long time.....and one achieved. She wanted to teach at Holy Cross, her alma mater. Her entire professional career has been dedicated to Catholic education. Goal attained. Do I hear a whispered woo-hoo??

Once again, I have reached the limits of the page. I hope you'll look forward to the third installment, there's more....

swers to his questions. St. Ambrose would guide him in learning of the faith. He was inspired to conversion by a verse of Scripture (Roman 13:13-14; go ahead look it up). That led him to be baptized in the faith of his mother, St. Monica, who prayed for his conversion daily for many years. In the years after converting to the faith, Augustine became a Bishop and one of the greatest philosophers and theologians of Catholicism.

The Conversion of Constantine. Roman Emperor Constantine, who in the religion of ancient Rome was deemed to be a god, one day had a conversion experience that not only brought him to Christianity, but made him cast aside any illusion that he was a god. Shortly before a battle had a vision, recounted by early Christian writer, Lactantius: *“Constantine was directed in a dream to cause the heavenly sign to be delineated on the shields of his soldiers, and so to proceed to battle. He did as he had been commanded, and he marked on their shields the letter X, with a perpendicular line drawn through it and turned round thus at the top (P), being the [initials] of CHRISTOS. Having this sign, his troops stood to arms.”* And Constantine won that battle using the sign from his vision. Constantine’s conversion marked the end of pagan Rome and the rise of Christianity. In 313 AD, Constantine legalized Christianity throughout the Empire. While not a saint in the Western Church, in the Eastern Church and amongst the Orthodox Churches, he is dubbed “St. Constantine, Equal of the Apostles” as he, like the Apostles, spread the faith throughout the known world.

The Conversion of Clovis. Clovis was King of the Franks (although, I always thought Sinatra should have that title). In 496 A.D., Clovis was down on his luck; the German tribes were beating his troops like a rented mule. Clovis was an idol-worshipping pagan, but His wife was a Christian. She urged him to pray to God; he did, praying: *“Most mighty God, whom my Queen worships and adores with heart and soul, I pledge you perpetual service unto your faith, if only you give me now the victory over my enemies.”* And his prayer was answered: His troops began winning. Clovis ultimately conquered much of the Germanic area of Europe. He then made his profession of faith, was baptized and then convinced the chieftains within his kingdom to do likewise. And from that one key conversion, Europe was on its way to becoming fully Christian, a continental conversion that would be capped and completed by the conversion of St. Stephen of Hungary in 1000 A.D.

The Conversion of St. Kateri Tekakwitha. A member of the Mohawk Indian tribe, St. Kateri was a young girl whose ill health in early years left her sickly. Listening to the preaching of Jesuit Missionaries, St. Kateri moved away from the religious practices of her people, and became a convert to Catholicism as a teenager, and was baptized at age 20. As a result of her conversion, her family and her people shunned St. Kateri. But she remained firm in faith. By her example other Indian tribesmen converted and joined her in a Christian Indian colony. Kateri had a deep devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist and to Christ crucified. Inspiring many, she died at age 24, in 1680. Today, over 20% of American Indians are Catholic (the largest single Christian religion among Native Americans); and it all goes back to St. Kateri Tekakwitha.

And Many Others. I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the importance of several other key conversions; like the conversions of St. Stephen of Hungary (conversion from pagan beliefs to Catholicism), St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (conversion Episcopalianism to Catholicism), St. Edmund Campion (Anglicanism to Catholicism), and many, many more.

It could well be said that story of our faith is the story of conversion. And so, by reflecting on these great conversion in faith history, and perhaps after listening to a little jazzy touch of George Benson, be inspired by St. Paul, make some time to turn your love around. Answer God’s continuing call to conversion.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor