



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 31, 2021

4th Sunday Ordinary Time

holycross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish
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-Friday, 12:10 pm also
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-Midnight (temporarily closed)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Friday 9 am-noon, closed Wednesday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish
Saturday, 9 am, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

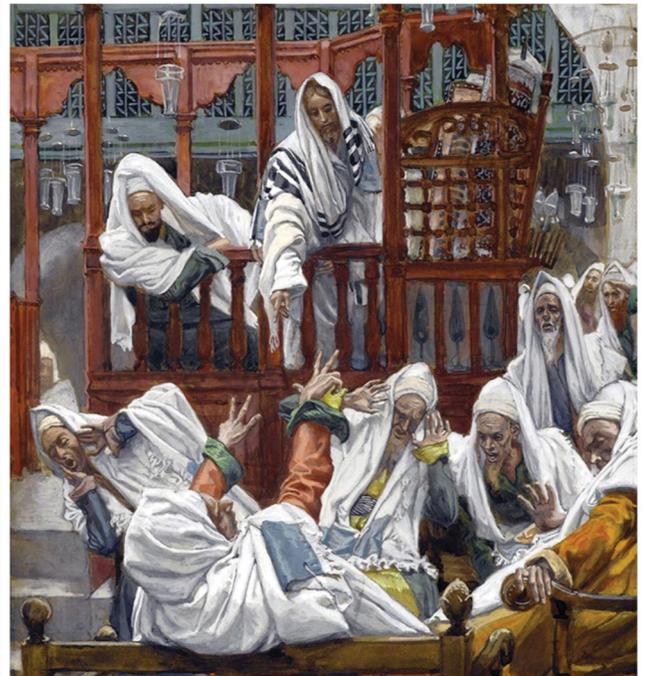
Saturday, after 9:00 am Mass
Thursday, 6:30 pm

icc



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.
Flk 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 parish 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.

THIS WEEK (HC OR ICC)

Check out our websites

holycrossover.org

iccmaryl.org

Holy Cross Church is unlocked and available for private prayer. The doors will be open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday, and 7 am to 7 pm on Sunday.

Immaculate Conception will be open daily 9 am to 7 pm.

Daily Mass at HC at 8 am Monday through Saturday. Weekend Masses at Holy Cross are Saturday evening 5 pm, Sunday at 7:30 and 9:30 am, 11:30 am Spanish.

Weekend Masses at ICC are Sunday at 8:30 and 11 am, and 1 pm Spanish. Also a 6 pm Mass Thursday and 9 am Mass on Saturday morning, both in Spanish

We are limiting access to the parish offices, so you can buzz when you stop by, or call and leave messages and we will get back to you; or, you can email us. Stay safe and stay healthy.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

January 17, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$17,624	\$27,800	(\$10,176)
YTD	\$709,914	\$807,800	(\$87,886)
Needs	\$798	\$1,550	(\$752)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending January 17, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,599
2nd	\$75

Tax letters are ready at ICC. Please call the Parish Office at ICC and they will be mailed to you.

Tax Statement for Holy Cross

The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2020 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.

Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time. Many are still not attending Mass but we still need your support. 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.

Dear Parishioners,

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

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

Waxing Historical. So what is the connection with the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and Candlemas? Well, let’s step into the Way-back Machine and set the dial to the late 4th century, back even before Betty White, to examine the origin of this beautiful feast in the Church. A nun named Egeria is the source of the earliest known reference to this feast, in one of her writing she commented:

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

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

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

- **Presentation of the Lord.** The primary observance of the day is our Lord being presented in the Temple, to God, by his parents. This Jewish practice called for a first-born son to be offered up to God; then the parents would then make an offering of some sort to “ransom” the child back. So, while the mother (in this case, Mary) offered the Christ Child to God, the father (in this case Joseph, the foster father) would make an offering to the priest or the Temple, to receive the child back and then take him home.
- **Purification of Mary.** The middle age until 1969, in the western Church, this feast day was known as the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary – this is because on the 40th day after the birth of a first born child, not only would a child be presented in the Temple, but the mother of that child would undergo a ritual purification. Thus for the first 40 days of the life of the child, the mother would not be allowed in the Temple but would rather be expected to be caring for the newborn child. While Mary had no need of purification, she humbly submitted to the Jewish tradition found in the law of Moses.
- **Candlemas.** And now, onto the origins of Candlemas! The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord bears the common alternate moniker “Candlemas,” because of a text from the Gospel of Luke. In Luke’s Gospel we hear about an old man named Simeon; he was a prophet. But it was promised that he would not die without seeing the Messiah of Israel in the flesh. And when Mary and Joseph brought the Baby Jesus in the Temple for his presentation, the Prophet Simeon proclaimed: “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled: my own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal you to the nations and the glory of your people Israel.”

From the reference and focusing on Christ as “a light” revealing God to the nations of the world, the practice developed of that day being filled with candlelight processions. Additionally, those candles would be blessed, and later in history candles that people brought from their homes to provide light would also be blessed, as would all of the beeswax candles in the Church. And, so, the 40th day after Christmas (Mass of Christ) was dubbed Candlemas (Mass of the Candles). That day would end the Christmas season

(Continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	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
holycrossover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

LEAVING ITEMS IN CHURCH

Please **do not** leave cards, religious items, clothing, or other such items in the lobby area of the Gathering Space. We cannot accept any of these items at this time.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Give your relationship the gift of quality time during the pandemic! Join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom for eight sessions presented on Sunday and Wednesday evenings from January 20 to February 14. Make Valentine's Day 2021 extra special as you learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! For more information visit our website at www.wwmelmar.org or to register for the weekend, please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.

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 begins the weekend of February 12 - 14, 2021 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.

READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 7 5TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

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

For Job, life is just one continuous round of drudgery. There is no end in view to his pain and misery.

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

Paul takes up his responsibility to preach the Gospel with joy and enthusiasm.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:29-39

Jesus' healing attracts the crowds, but he needs to be free to bring the Good News beyond the confines of his own area.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Even though we are not opening the Adoration Chapel at this time, anyone who was on the normal adoration schedule is encouraged to come into the church to pray during your assigned hour. The church is unlocked from 7 am to 7 pm and Our Lord is waiting for you to come spend time with Him. Our Lord is present in the tabernacle all day long and would love for you to spend time praying. It's a great way to get back into the routine of praying during your scheduled hour.

POST ABORTION SUPPORT

If you or someone you know has struggled with feelings of guilt, pain, sorrow, or regret after an abortion, please know that you are not alone. Join us for our monthly support group! We will have a time of optional sharing, prayer, and a book or bible study. No registration needed...just show up!

2nd Tuesday of the Month

630PM to 8PM

New Day Pregnancy Care Center

811 South Governors Ave Dover, DE

VOCATIONS

Jesus commanded us to pray for vocations with his words, "Pray, therefore, the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest" (Mt. 9:38). Take on prayer for vocations as your personal effort to increase the number of priests, sisters, brothers, and lay ministers. *Serra for priestly and religious vocations*

DELAWARE STATE CHINESE AUCTION

The Delaware State Columbiettes will be sponsoring a virtual Chinese Auction on Sunday, February 28th at 2:00 P.M. There will be dozens of baskets with a minimum value of \$35.00. Tickets can be purchased by sending a check to Debbie Petka, 30 Freedom Drive, Dover, DE 19904 (Dpetka1@verizon.net). Please include your name, email and phone number when sending your check so we can contact you with the Zooming information and let you know if you win! Tickets will be priced at \$25.00 for a single sheet (20 chances to win) or \$15.00 for a half sheet (10 chances to win)! Please RSVP by February 15th! We look forward to having you join us.

MASS INTENTIONS

FEBRUARY

1 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Elizabeth D'Aguillo

2 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Norma Kosky

3 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Joseph Scanlon

4 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Margie Galli
ICC 6 pm For People

5 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Michael Ciccarello

6 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Vinh Vu
HC 5 pm Sarah Fillat

7 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Robert Byers
ICC 8:30 am Deacon James Tormey
HC 9:30 am John Fostock
HC 11:30 am Rev. Joseph Etim
ICC 11 am Andrew T. Wolfe
ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION

DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)

K OF C FISH FRY

Every Friday in Lent from 4 pm to 7 pm the Knight will offer Lenten Dinners at the Columbian Hall. Proceeds will go to Holy Cross and Immaculate conception Churches at the discretion of Fr. Lentini.

All meals are take out and can be picked up at the Columbian Home, 219 Vepeco Blvd, Camden.

Menu is subject to change.

Feb. 19—Manhattan Clam Chowder, \$10 first Quart, \$5 additional Quarts

Feb 26—Tuna Subs, chips cole slaw \$10

Mar 5—3 pcs cod, french fries cole slaw \$10

Mar 12—6 large shrimp, tator tots, cole slaw \$10

Mar 19—2 crab cakes on HB bun, mac & cheese, cole slaw \$10

Mar 26—Shrimp or cod, mac & cheese or tater tots, cole slaw \$10

MASS MINISTERS

PLEASE COME
FORWARD TO HELP
DISTRIBUTE

HOLY COMMUNION AT THE MASS
YOU ATTEND. THE PRIEST WILL INDICATE
HOW MANY EXTRA-ORDINARY
MINISTERS ARE NEEDED.

Lector Schedule for February 2021

At Holy Cross:

5 pm Mass

Feb 6 Donna Kilby
Feb 13 Dennis Dixon
Feb 20 Lori Christiansen
Feb 27 Judi Coffield

7:30 am Mass

Feb 7 Edie Outten
Feb 14 John Davis
Feb 21 Donna Kilby
Feb 28 Rose Pritchett

9:30 am Mass

Feb 7 Mary Louise Sossich
Feb 14 Colin Parks
Feb 21 Suzanne Ford
Feb 28 Chris Petka

At Immaculate Conception

8:30 am Mass

Feb 7 Bill Thompson
Feb 14 Gerry Godfrey
Feb 21 Diane Smith
Feb 28 Theresa Thompson

11 am Mass

Feb 7 Laura Schlopitz
Feb 14 Donna King
Feb 21 Laura Schlopitz
Feb 28 Donna King

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at dbelt@holycrossdover.org so we can add you to the names of those who have already volunteered to lector.

At ICC, please get in touch with Marilyn Dixon at mdixon@iccmarydel.org Thank you.

DIRECTORIES (HC)

The Parish Directories are in the Parish Office. If you would like to stop by the office to pick up your copy, please call ahead of time and we will get your copy and have it for you to pick up. Please do not just show up without calling first.

RETURNING TO MASS

- Attendees must **wear a face covering (mask)**(when inside the Church ; **masks are to be worn over the nose and mouth and must be kept on during the entire Mass.**
- Pews have been marked off to accommodate social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer is available as you enter the church.
- When receiving Holy Communion, please remember to stay socially distanced.** We encourage you to receive Holy Communion in your hand, but **if you wish to receive on the tongue, you are asked to be at the end of the Communion line.** There will be no Cup distributed at this time.
- As you leave the church, please **do not gather in the Gathering Space** or parking lot.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"For the world in its present form is passing away." (1 Cor. 7:31) Covid-19 has changed much about how our lives work. Ponder together what you have learned over the past 12 months. What positive changes do you want to continue?

PARENTING POINTERS

While you may still be lamenting some changes that Covid-19 has brought to your family life, help your child make a list of advantages that your family has, for example: food, warmth, safety, a pet, friends, ability to read...

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum every Saturday afternoon at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. Next Saturday, February 6th, tune in to learn about human trafficking when Molly Sheahan from the Maryland Catholic Conference is the guest. Listen to Catholic Forum online anytime at www.cdow.org/CatholicForum, or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Catholicforum.

- Continuamos con nuestras prácticas de Posturas y Gestos durante la Santa Misa con la ayuda de la Conferencia de los Obispos de Estados Unidos,
 - **Las Posturas y Gestos Corporales durante La Eucaristía.** Cada postura corporal que asumimos en la Misa enfatiza y refuerza el significado de la acción en la que estamos participando en ese momento de nuestro culto.
1. **En la iglesia primitiva -Ponernos de rodillas simbolizaba la penitencia. USCCB-Esta es la postura de adoración, de humildad, de reconocimiento de nuestra limitación humana y postrándonos le rendimos homenaje a nuestro Dios y Creador:** La iglesia primitiva nos dice: ¡la conciencia del pecado nos derrumba! La postura de rodillas estaba totalmente identificada con la penitencia y por eso era prohibido arrodillarse los domingos y durante el tiempo de Pascua, en que el espíritu que prevalecía 2 en la liturgia era aquel de gozo y acción de gracias. Durante la Edad Media, la posición de rodillas vino a significar el homenaje que un vasallo a su amo; y, más recientemente, esta postura ha venido a significar adoración. Es por esta razón que los obispos de este país han elegido la posición de rodillas como postura corporal durante toda la Plegaria Eucarística después del canto o rezo del Santo. Cuando se celebra la santa Misa, hay un momento en que se pone uno de rodillas. Arrodíllate con reverencia y respeto, porque en este instante se está realizando el momento más bello de la celebración: el pan y el vino, por la acción del Espíritu Santo y las palabras de la consagración, se convierten en el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo. Por eso debes contemplar con tus ojos ese momento único e irrepetible. Arrodíllate sin hacer ruidos, en silencio y recogimiento, sin distraer. Este momento es súper especial para nosotros los cristianos.
 2. **Sentados**-Habrá momentos que estarás sentado y es el momento para estar atentos a la escucha, porque Dios es quien te está hablando, es quien te está narrando las maravillas que ha hecho en otros tiempos, en otras personas y, en este tiempo, se dirige a ti, para que tú también seas testigo de esas maravillas. Estar sentado, escuchando, no es para que estés leyendo tu misal mensual o algo por el estilo. En la liturgia se proclama la lectura, que es para ser escuchada y para que entre por nuestro sentido del oído. Pon mucha atención, porque es el mensaje de Dios para ti. El misal mensual es para que te hayas preparado antes que comenzara la celebración y no para estar siguiendo la lectura.

Es Dios quien te está hablando en vivo y por tanto tienes que estar atento a su Palabra, a su escucha. En la liturgia estar sentado es signo de estar dispuesto para escuchar al Maestro que habla, a Cristo que te tiene un mensaje actual para tu vida. Por eso la homilía (este es su nombre correcto) o sermón, se escucha sentado. Continúa la próxima semana.

• ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

¡La Unidad 3 comenzó el 17 de enero y está lista para ser recogida!

¡Traigan sus mochilas azules con los libros a clase!

Grupo 2- grados 1, 2, en el salón, 4, 5 en las clases del sótano (basement), y RCIA para estar en el centro de computación- en el sitio el 31 de enero.

Grupo 1- grados 3, 6, en el pasillo, 7, 8 en el sótano (basement), y RCIA estará en el salón de computadoras -presencial el 7 de febrero.

Si prefiere que sus hijos continúen haciendo Educación Religiosa en casa, hágamelo saber.

Alicia Poppiti, Directora de Educación Religiosa al 410-482-8939 o envíeme un correo electrónico a dre@iccmaryl.org

¡**Gracias!** a todos los Catequistas que han preparado y adaptado sus lecciones durante este tiempo de transición.

Primera Reconciliación-ICC

Felicitaciones nuevamente a los niños que recibieron el Sacramento de la Primera Reconciliación el sábado, 23 de enero.

Preparación para la Primera Comunión 2021- Comienza el martes, 26 de enero de 2021 26 de enero a las 6:30 pm en el Salón.

Preparación para la Confirmación 2020-2021- ICC Nuestra próxima sesión de preparación es el domingo 14 de febrero, 2: 30-5pm en el Salón Parroquial. Esto es para los jóvenes de octavo grado y de secundaria que están inscritos para comenzar la preparación para la Confirmación. Esto es solo para los jóvenes, no hay padres ni patrocinadores en esta sesión.

RETIRO: El Retiro de Confirmación se llevará a cabo el sábado, 13 de marzo de 12 a 5 pm en el pasillo de la Inmaculada Concepción.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class **February 7 3:30-5:30**

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office. No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter the building. Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.; Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows: Upstairs Grades 6-8 and sacramental prep 5:15; Down stairs (a teacher or assistant will escort to the ramp):

Gr. K-1 5:20 Gr. 2-3 5:25

Gr. 4-5 5:30

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.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

February 14 10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room; Next Sessions March 14th

CONFIRMATION CLASSES (HC)

Confirmation class will take place on Sunday, February 7 at 2 and 4 pm and Wednesday, February 10 at 6 pm . Makeup class for Wednesday class cancelled will take place on February 3 at 6pm.

RETREAT: HC CONFIRMATION

For candidates who missed retreat in December, please be dropped off at the ramp into school by 8:45 am on February 6.

PARENT MEETING FOR CANDIDATES:

Sunday, February 28 OR Monday, March 1, at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. Final

information on the Sacrament of Confirmation will be shared.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

Unit 3 began on January 17th and ready for pick up!

Bring your Blue Book Bags with books to class!

Group 1- grades 3, 6, in the hall, 7, 8 in the basement, and RCIA to be in the computer center -on site January 24th.

Group 2- grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement classes and RCIA to be in the computer center - on site January 31st

If you would prefer to have your children continue to do Religious Education at home please let me know, Alicia Poppiti, Director of Religious Education at 410-482-8939 or send me an email to dre@icmarydel.org

Thank you! to all the Catechists that have prepared and adapted their lessons during this transitional time.

FIRST RECONCILIATION-ICC

Congratulations to the children that received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation Saturday January 23rd.

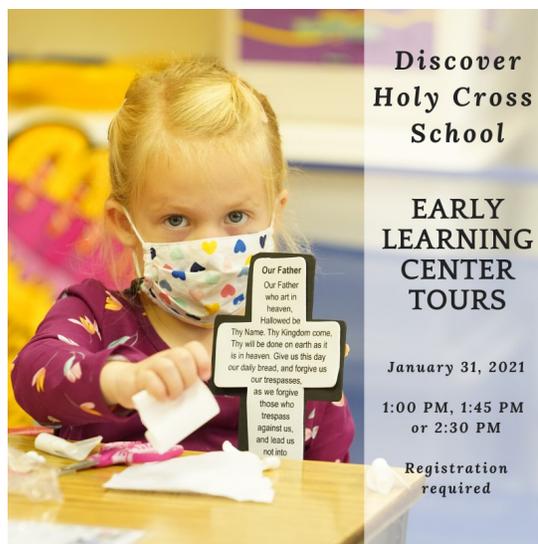
2021 FIRST COMMUNION PREP-ICC

Begins on Tuesday, January 26th at 6:30 pm in the Hall.

CONFIRMATION PREP 2020-2021-ICC

Our next Prep session is today, Sunday, February 14th, 2:30-5pm in the Parish Hall.

This is for 8th grade and HS youth that are registered to begin Confirmation Prep. This is for the youth only, no parents or Sponsors at this session.. RETREAT: Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday, March 13th from 12-5pm in the hall at Immaculate Conception.



Holy Cross Early Learning Center Tours

Sunday, January 31st

1:00 pm, 1:45 pm or 2:30 pm

If you have ever wondered about our three, four, or five year old programs at Holy Cross School...now is the time to learn more.

All visitors to Holy Cross School will be required to wear a mask while on campus, and tours will be socially distanced with staggered start times to allow families to move through our school in personal groups. Tours are being offered every 30 minutes to allow families to be spread around our building. Please sign up for the time frame that you desire, and include a contact email as well as the grade you are interested in for the 2021 school year. Only one ticket per family is needed and due to covid-19 restrictions, we can only allow three people per ticket to enter. Register on our school website at

holycrossdover.org/school.

Any questions can be directed to Jill Zink at elc@holycrossdover.org.

We can't wait to meet our prospective families!

Sunday will mark the first day of our annual Catholic Schools Week observance. The CSW 2021- 2024 theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Excellence. Service." Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students to be good citizens of the world, to love and to serve God and neighbor. We are bound to enrich our society by living an example of faith by spreading the Good News of the gospel of Christ. Rightly or wrongly, the words that encourage us to spread the good news of the gospel using words only when necessary are attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. Preach by action. It is the foundation that we lay as Catholic educators. Graduates of a Catholic institution stand out in the community by their very lifestyle.

As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become saints. Academic excellence is the hallmark of Catholic education intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Finally, service is fundamental to Catholic education and the core of Catholic discipleship. Service is intended to help form people who are not only witnesses to Catholic social teaching, but also active participants through social learning.

This year marks the first year of our new Catholic Schools Week logo. The CSW logo emphasizes that the Catholic school, like the Catholic Church, is not a building or an institution, but it is the people. As the people of God, we work together to bring the Kingdom of God to Earth and raise up the next generation to do the same. I have always said that one day I am going to embark upon a little research project. The goal of my research is to identify all of our former Holy Cross students who have enrolled their children in our school. One of our fourth graders is a third generation Holy Cross attendee. Both of his grandparents; and both of his parents graduated from HCS. I am truly blessed in having taught all three generations. That list is lengthy and is impressive, and one day I'll find the time. The image of teachers and students forming the foundation of the school shows that they are active people of faith who serve others and God. Last week I paid tribute to our faculty and staff, the backbone of HCS. I once read the words of a wise Pastor who commented on those who have dedicated their lives and livelihood to the Church. "God doesn't call the equipped, He equips the called." It is because of our faith and conviction that we call upon our God every minute of every day, firm in the assurance that He hears us, and will uphold us in the good and bad times.

We look forward to our CSW observance, although we are taking a different approach. Bowing to pandemic protocol, we have had to make some alterations to the norm. I thank the members of our Religion Committee; Mrs. Bernadette Kolalowski, Miss Grace Overstreet, Mrs. Ann Rider, Mrs. Kate White, and Mrs. Kate Williams for their creativity in devising our plan for the week. I also thank Mrs. Debbie Borden and Mrs. Lindsay Knox and our precious first graders for planning the prayer service we will watch in our class-

rooms in lieu of our annual CSW Mass.

MONDAY: CELEBRATE OUR COMMUNITY

Catholic Schools Week Prayer Service: First grade students will lead in prayers during our worship service. Silly Sock Drive in support of community Code Purple. Students will wear a pair of Silly Socks to school AND donate a pair to Code Purple. Baby Bottle Penney Drive to support our local Pregnancy Help Center (March for Life - January) Bottle will be delivered to classrooms. We will pray a Rosary, (or an age-appropriate portion) in our individual classrooms that day for our government leaders, First Responders, and COVID frontline workers.

TUESDAY: CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS

Free Student Tag Day
Movies and popcorn in the AM
Virtual talent show in the PM - Mrs. Williams has taken video submissions and created a "Talent Show" that can be shared in our classrooms.

WEDNESDAY: CELEBRATE OUR NATION (FEAST OF SAINT BLAISE)

We will include a "Prayer for Our Nation" in our morning prayers. Our teachers in the ELC will present information to the children about our National Symbols & song God Bless America. Students will select and "travel" to different states of the union by virtue of two interesting website, <https://thetvtraveler.com/visit-all-50-states-with-these-virtual-tours/> <https://www.teachersusingtech.com/post/united-states-virtual-field-trips> The classes will select a particular state for discussion of unique facts, unique foods, and famous people from the state. In Religion our students will learn about St. Blaise, and the significance of the candles used in the traditional blessing of the throat.

THURSDAY: CELEBRATING VOCATIONS

Breakfast items will be provided for our clergy. Each homeroom will make a thank you card for our clergy which will be displayed in the ELC Lobby.

FRIDAY: CELEBRATING OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

Everyone loves a tag day, especially our teachers. A special blessing will be prayed during our morning prayers. Special treats will be placed in building offices.

Thank you for your continued prayers for our school where Catholic education is alive and well.

(which, since 1969, now finds its conclusion on the Baptism of the Lord).

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

Sunday Moveover. The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is considered to be of such importance and rank, that if it lands on a Sunday (as it does from time to time), it actually takes the place of the Sunday Mass celebration (thus, if, for example, this weekend were the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time but also happened to be February 2, we would not celebrate the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time at all, we’d celebrate the Presentation of the Lord). This is a big deal, as not too many Holy Days bump-off the regular Sunday celebration; this one does. And just to make it clear for you devoted football fans, next weekend, February 7, despite it being Sunday of the Superbowl (which some folk treat like a religion), be aware that even the Superbowl doesn’t get to bump a Sunday Mass! Because while the world celebrates Superbowl LV, the Church celebrates the year of our Lord, MMXXI – I guess with numbers like that we’re winning!

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

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

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

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

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

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor