



# 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 3, 2021

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-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)

icc

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

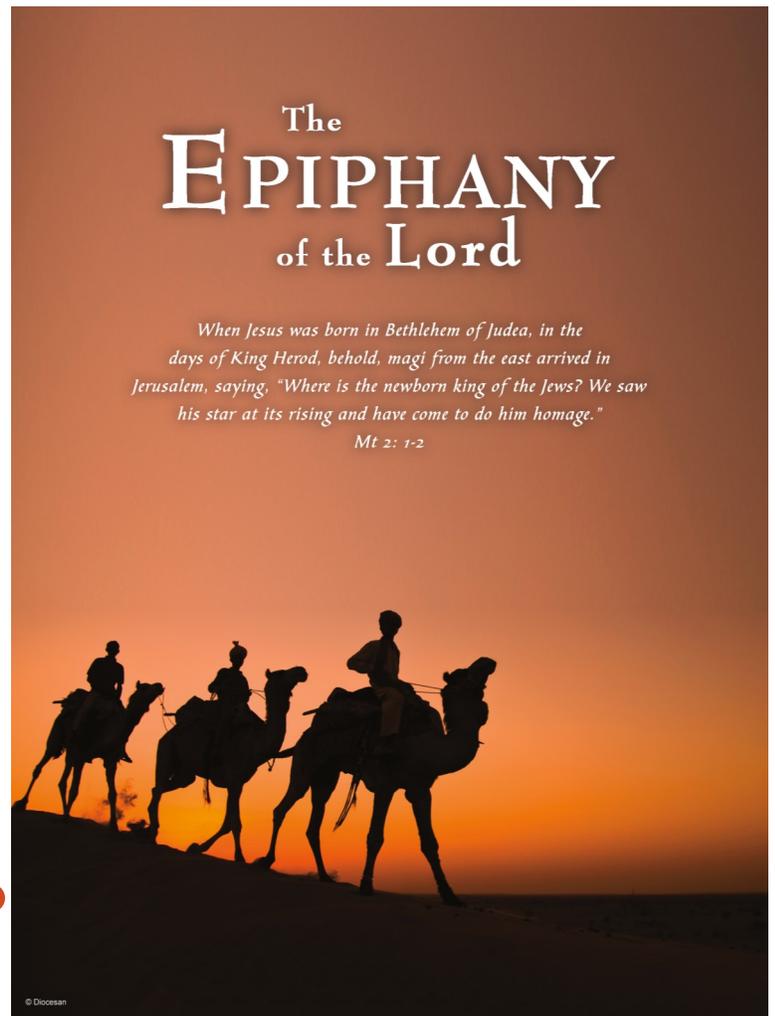
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am  
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



### 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](http://holycrossover.org)

[iccmaryl.org](http://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)

December 20, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$29,388	\$28,800	\$588
YTD	\$603,813	\$695,600	(\$91,787)
Needs	\$1,68	\$1,550	\$218

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 20, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,253
Second	\$275

Thank you for your offering. It is with your continued support and the sharing of your time and talent that the ministries, programs, and activities of Holy Cross and ICC are made possible.

“Whatever you give to the Lord, He will return to you a hundred fold.”

Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time. May 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.

We will call you back . Thank you for your continued support.

Dear Parishioners,

Does anybody here remember the Christmas song, “We need a little Christmas right this very minute”? I thought of that song the other day, as I saw someone putting out their Christmas tree for trash pick-up, and it was only January 1. I’ve seen Christmas decorations beginning to make their descent from display into storage. And of course, Valentine’s cards and candy will promptly replace their Christmas counterparts. And all seems to be going back to pre-Christmas time; to the eye, it would appear that Christmas is over.

I don’t know what has happened, but even in the tightest view of Christmas, we at least have 12 days of Christmas. But you know what? This Sunday, January 3, is only the 9th day after Christmas. And in the Catholic tradition Christmas doesn’t end until next Sunday after the Mass celebrating the Baptism of the Lord. Regardless of what our eyes behold, we need to remember that we are in the Christmas season.

The Church is still celebrating the Christmas season. I mean, God has become man, or as they say in the Divine Office, *O Marvelous Exchange our maker has become man.* This is a pretty darn big event. It certainly is more deserving of more than a one-day or one-week celebration. And in our faith the Christmas season builds.

In Advent we prepared for four weeks for Christmas. On Christmas day we celebrate our Savior being born as man. On Holy Family Sunday we celebrate his being part of a family of man. And now on this Sunday we celebrate the high feast we call the Epiphany. Now just to clarify: this feast is celebrated on Sunday in only a small portion of the world -- in most of the world, the Epiphany (the 12th day of Christmas) is celebrated on January 6th -- which is the actual 12th day. But that discrepancy is a topic for a whole ‘nother column. Anyway, you may ask: Why 12 days? Why not

the seven days of Christmas? Why not the 14 days (two weeks) of Christmas?

Well, we know that Christ is the Messiah, and but to whom was he sent? He was sent to the people of Israel. He was their Messiah. And Israel, by tradition, is made up of twelve tribes, which in turn were given, by God, 12 pieces of land inside Israel. And so, where does Christ first appear at his birth? In Bethlehem, in the Kingdom of Judah -- one of the tribes and one of the lands of Israel. Then 11 more days pass, each day representing Christ being made known to each of the remaining 11 tribes, in each of the eleven other lands in Israel.

But, then, on the 12th day, this is where the big shift of focus occurs. Christ, now, at least symbolically, known to all of Israel, moves to the world outside of Israel. Three wise men come; they come not from Israel, they come not from one of the tribes, but rather they come from the Gentile world. They come from the non-Jewish world. They come from the East, and they come to see the Christ. These wise men follow His star, and they follow it to that stable. And these kings — Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar — as tradition names them, represent the various corners of the known world. It is for this reason that one often sees statues of the kings representing or portraying different races of the world.

And so, for us, this day is our Epiphany -- it is the day when Christ became known to world outside of Israel. The word Epiphany means manifestation, and so this is when Christ was made manifest, when he was made known to the world. This was the sign that God sent the Messiah to save not just Israel, but all the world.

The Three wise men came from the East, followed a star to find God, and Christ made himself known to them. And scripture tells us that they came to Christ one way and went back a different way. The Kings came to Christ THEIR way but went

## 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
----------------------	--------

## 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
---------------	---------------------

## 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. They will all be thrown out.

## SAMARITAN FOOD NEEDS (HC)

Once again we are grateful to all who have contributed to our food pantry this Advent season and throughout the entire year. Your generosity lets us continue to help those in need on a daily basis.



We not only provide food to needy families, we help some with their utility bills and other expenses. This has been a rough year on so many and we thank God for the people of Holy Cross who continue to show God's love to others by helping the Samaritans.

## READINGS FOR JANUARY 10

### BAPTISM OF THE LORD

#### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:1-11

Those who thirst are invited to "come to the water".

#### SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 5:1-9

Christian life requires both faith in Jesus and love of other people.

#### GOSPEL: MARK 1:7-11

Mark's gospel starts with the "good news" of Jesus' baptism at the beginning of his ministry.

## 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.

## VOCATIONS

He has a job that puts him in touch with dozens of interesting people each week: He smiles over coffee while a 95-year-old woman reminisces about her first date in 1920; he discusses Marxism with a world-class philosopher after a lecture.

Each day when he gets out of bed, he knows his work will make a difference. People knock on his door when they learn their spouses are sick, even dying. When they don't have the money to buy winter coats for their small children. Or when their parents have kicked them out of the house. He does his best to do something for them all, but he gets back even more. This is not a thankless job. Real appreciation is expressed in hugs, smiles and simple thank-yous.

His co-workers are well-trained and knowledgeable in their fields. And they are supportive, never competitive. They laugh a lot with him. Sometimes they cry with him. But they are always caring.

This job has brought out in him all sorts of hidden talents. He hadn't known what a flair he had for public speaking; now, after every talk, there are pats on the back. He hadn't known how much he liked children; now hundreds of kids know he's ticklish behind the knees. This is not a dead-end job. He is learning every day.

**He is a priest.** Does his job sound good to you?

*Serra for priestly and religious vocations*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### JANUARY

<b>4 MONDAY</b> HC 8:00 am	Douglas Kistle
<b>5 TUESDAY</b> HC 8:00 am	Michael Ciccarelli
<b>6 WEDNESDAY</b> HC 8:00 am	Louise Quinn
<b>7 THURSDAY</b> HC 8:00 am ICC 6 pm	Grace Jara For the People
<b>8 FRIDAY</b> HC 8:00 am	Sisters Joan and Catherine
<b>9 SATURDAY</b> HC 8 am HC 5 pm	Mayla Feliu Robert Rangland
<b>10 SUNDAY</b> HC 7:30 am ICC 8:30 am HC 9:30 am HC 11:30 am ICC 11 am ICC 1 pm	Richard Panicci Deacon Jams Tormey Sarah Fillat Santos Pastoriza Marlene DeFrancesco For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION  
DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)

## 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.wwmedelmar.org](http://www.wwmedelmar.org) or to register for the weekend, please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.

## 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 January 2021

#### At Holy Cross:

##### 5 pm Mass (HC)

Jan 2 Donna Kilby  
Jan 9 Lori Christiansen  
Jan 16 Hazel Showell  
Jan 23 Judi Coffield  
Jan 30 Fran Urick

##### 7:30 am Mass (HC)

Jan 3 Edie Outten  
Jan 10 John Davis  
Jan 17 Donna Kilby  
Jan 24 Rose Pritchett  
Jan 31 Christina Cuffe

##### 9:30 am Mass (HC)

Jan 3 Sher Crossen  
Jan 10 Tamra Baurys  
Jan 17 Suzanne Ford  
Jan 24 Chris Petka  
Jan 31 Mary Sherlock

#### At Immaculate Conception:

##### 8:30 am Mass (ICC)

Jan 3 Bill Thompson  
Jan 10 Gerry Godfrey  
Jan 17 Diane Smith  
Jan 24 Theresa Thompson  
Jan 31 Karen Cairns

##### 11:00 am Mass (ICC)

Jan 3 Donna King  
Jan 10 Laura Schlopitz  
Jan 17 Donna King  
Jan 24 Laura Schlopitz  
Jan 31 Donna King

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at [dbelt@holycrossdover.org](mailto: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@iccmarylidel.org](mailto:mdixon@iccmarylidel.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

(Epiphany) "Behold, Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem." (Mt 2:2). The feast of the Epiphany reminds us that the wise still seek Jesus. What gifts of wisdom do you possess? A lesson learned from your childhood? A proverb that steers your life? A virtue to which you've struggled to be true?

## PARENTING POINTERS

(New Years) Perhaps you already say a bedtime prayer with your child. Perhaps your children feel too old for this custom. Either way, in person or in spirit, try this universal prayer for your child: "May the Lord bless you and keep you! May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you! May the Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace!" (Numbers 6: 24-26)

## RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND

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 12 - 14, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information or to register please visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

## HOLY CROSS SCHOOL AFTER-CARE PROGRAM HELP NEEDED

The After-Care Program at Holy Cross School provides a safe, nurturing environment, as well as organized activities for students in grades Pre-K thru 8. Activities include homework completion, indoor and outdoor play, arts and crafts, and games.



**Interested parties must have experience working with young children. Background check will be required.**

The hours for this position are from 2:30-5:30 pm each school day.

**\*\*Our After-Care space is fully aligned with all**

Nuestra Posadas virtuales fue todo un éxito gracias a la Sra. Mariana Pitti por coordinar la tecnología, a Fabiola Matías y Cristina Cebrero por coordinar los rezos y mi más sincero agradecimiento a nuestros peregrinos Joshua Guzmán (José) y Irene Gómez (María) que todas las noches con alegría y gozo participaron, fue una gran experiencia que a pesar de no poder reunirnos presencialmente nos reunimos virtualmente noche tras noche como familia, como comunidad para orar y darle posada a María y José para darle cabida a nuestro Salvador en nuestras vidas, en nuestros corazones y en nuestros hogares que el Señor los bendiga.

Este año la Epifanía del Señor es el domingo 3 de enero, donde tradicionalmente celebramos el "Día de Reyes" y partimos la Rosca de reyes, desafortunadamente y debido a las restricciones que todavía siguen en vigor no celebraremos el día de los Reyes. Les sugerimos que haga su celebración en sus casas en familia con miembros de su misma burbuja, para evitar el riesgo de contagio. Por favor de cuidarse, cuide a su familia y cuide a otros. Haga lo recomendable por los expertos y lo que es correcto, si todos ponemos de nuestra parte como buenos ciudadanos y cristianos pronto volveremos a la normalidad.

**La Santa Misa durante el COVID -19** Las reglas de la pandemia siguen en vigor y todos tenemos la responsabilidad de protegernos y proteger a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

1. Usar mascarillas cuando entra al templo

**mandates and restrictions associated with Coronavirus protocol. \*\***

Please call 302-674-5787, ext. 111 if interested in obtaining additional information.

## FISH AND CHIPS DINNER FROM K OF C

The Knights are sponsoring a Fish and Chips takeout only dinner on January 16, 2021 at the Columbian Home, 219 Vepco Blvd. Camden from 12-4 pm.

The dinner will be 3 pieces of Cod, steak fries, and cole slaw all for the low, low, price of \$10!!

Come out and join us for a delicious dinner on January 16.

durante todo el tiempo que permanezca adentro la mascarilla debe cubrir la nariz y la boca.

2. Desinfectante de manos está disponible al entrar a la iglesia.
3. Distanciamiento social, los asientos están marcados para que guarde su distancia.
4. Al recibir la Sagrada Comunión, recuerde mantenerse socialmente distanciado. Le recomendamos a recibir la Sagrada Comunión en su mano, pero si desea recibirla en la lengua, se le pide que esté al final de la línea de Comunión. No se distribuirá la Preciosa Sangre de Cristo en este momento.
5. Al salir de la iglesia, no se reúna en el Nártex ni en el estacionamiento.
6. Lavarnos las manos con frecuencia.
7. Si está enfermo quédese en casa. Protejamos nuestra salud y la salud del hermano especialmente los más vulnerables.

Los Bautismos son los primeros domingos de cada mes. Las clases pre-bautismales se darán virtuales, tiene que hacer una cita para las clases pre-bautismales para poder conseguir las indicaciones de como conectarse.

Que este Año nuevo 2021, sea un año de esperanza, fe, paz, salud, gozo y amor.

this & that

comunidad hispana

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class **January 17 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)

January 17th (The January 10th classed was cancelled.) 10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room

Next Sessions February 14th

## CONFIRMATION CLASSES (HC)

Our next class takes place on Sunday, January 17 and Wednesday, January 20.

Please turn in any work completed over break for missed classes.

## RETREAT: HC CONFIRMATION

Saturday, February 6 for those teens who were unable to attend retreat in December.

Please drop off by 8:45 am at the ramp into the school gathering space.

## JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL

We have a lot of service activities ready to do as soon as we are able to meet again.

Please stay tuned - we are anxious to see you again.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

Classes start up again today, January 3rd: **Bring your Blue Book Bags to class!**

**Group 2- grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement classes and RCIA to be in the computer center- on site again January 3rd.**

**Group 1- grades 3, 6, in the hall, 7, 8 in the basement, and RCIA to be in the computer center -on site January 10th.**

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

**Unit 3 ready for pick up.**

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

## 2020/21 FIRST RECONCILIATION (ICC)

**Retreat** is planned for January 9th from 9-12noon in Immaculate Conception hall.

**Sacrament of First Reconciliation** is planned for Saturday January 23rd at 10:30am at Holy Cross in Dover.

## CONFIRMATION 2020-2021 (ICC)

Our next Prep session is Sunday, January 17th, 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.

Simultaneous to my turning around to place the receiver back on the phone, Mrs. Stant walked into my office. As our eyes met she informed me that she had just made an appointment for a prospective family on such and such a day at such and such time. My eyes left her as I glanced down at my very expensive academic year paper calendar and said, "I can't do that. I just made an appointment with Mrs. So and So at that time." Feigning extreme frustration, but annoyed nonetheless, she flat out told me that it was high time for an electronic calendar that she would have management access to, and there would be no more of this double booking nonsense. "I don't know how to do that." She quickly informed me that she would take care of it. "What are we going to do about Mrs. So and So?????" She quickly informed me that she would take care of that, too.

Calendars. The history of calendars is rather extensive, should you ever decide to research the topic as I did on a rainy day during the Christmas holiday break, although I decided that it wouldn't make for very interesting reading. The Julian calendar, I did learn, dominated all social activity and appointment making for over 1600 years. To make a long story short, it was Pope Gregory XIII who introduced reforms to the Julian calendar in 1582. Pope Gregory acted to correct some inaccuracies found in the Julian calendar with regard to seasonal dates. Using his great insight the Pope also realized the need to continue including the leap year which to this very day occurs every four years. This past year, 2020 was a leap year. Don't you find it ironic that we had one extra day added onto a year we couldn't wait to end?

I have found it an impossibility to live without a calendar for all of my adult life. My calendars have come in all forms. The free versions picked up at the local card store were always found in my purse. With added complications and responsibilities added to life, those little squares were way too small to suffice. Eventually I was forced to move to the planner version that I carried around just like a textbook. As a teacher, I was useless without a plan-book, although I never cared much for the conventional format.

Today, I am pleased to say that I have made Mrs. Stant very happy. I have occupied a seat on the struggle bus throughout most of the 21st century when it comes to all things technology, but now I am fully capable of accessing my calendar on my phone wherever I am because my trusty old paper version now exists in the clouds!

We have six months left on the Gregorian calendar before the end of the school year. Although we have no way of knowing just how those days and months will transpire *exactly*, we do have some plans. I'd like to go forth with confidence and courage ask that you make a few notations on your own Gregorian calendars!

**IANUARIUS**

- 18: *Martin Luther King Observance: No School*
- 31: *First Day of Catholic Schools Week*

**FEBRUARIUS:**

- 02-05: *Catholic Schools Week*
- 02/14–02/26: *Renaissance Testing Window*
- 02/15: *President's Day Observance: No School*
- 02/17: *Ash Wednesday: Shortened Full Day*
- 02/26: *Shadow Stations of the Cross*

**MARTIUS:**

- 12: *Mary's Way Stations of the Cross*
- 18: *T2 Report Cards*
- 19: *Tag Day: Wear something purple and donate a canned good item for the Samaritan's Pantry.*
- 26: *Living Stations of the Cross*

**APRILIS:**

- 01: *Holy Thursday—No School*
- 02: *Good Friday—No School*
- 04: *The Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday*
- 12: *School Reopens*
- 30: *T3 Interims*

**MAIUS:**

- 03: *May Procession and Schoolwide Retreat Day*
- 04: *Pre-K and K Spring Musical*
- 16-26: *Renaissance Testing Window*
- 18: *Middle School Spring Concert*
- 24: *ELC Field Day*
- 27 & 28: *Faculty Planning Days—No school for students.*
- 31: *Memorial Day—No School*

**JUNIUS**

- 03: *End of T3*
- 07: *Field Day: Grades 1-3*
- 08: *Field Day: Grades 4-7*
- 10: *Eighth Grade Awards and Report Card Distribution*
- 11: *ELC Last Day of School*
- 11: *Eighth Grade Graduation*
- 16: *Last Day of School*

I ask all of our families, and parishioners to please continue to pray for our school. Our school is such a strong community one in which each stakeholder is committed to all that is good for Holy Cross School students. As we end one year and walk boldly into another, we do with God by our side with the confidence that there will be times where He gently picks us up and holds us in the palm of his hand.

back HIS way.

Like the Kings we, too, follow the light of Christ. Just as that Star of Bethlehem led the three wise men to Bethlehem, so too, it leads us. Please note that the word “Bethlehem” means house of bread, and Jesus Christ, our guiding light, leads us to THIS house of bread that is, this Church, the house of the Holy Eucharist — the bread that came down from heaven. The bread that becomes the Body of Christ present to us: the Christ whom we adore, just as the three kings did. After we receive that sacred host, which looks like bread but is in truth the Body of Christ, we then leave here to bring that news -- that Good News of God’s presence, that great truth of salvation, that Gospel truth -- to the world. We make known that news that Jesus Christ is with us, that our Lord, our Savior, our Redeemer and our God, has come into our midst.

- This is just what the Three Kings did.
- This is just what the Apostles did.
- This is just what our Holy Father, the Pope, does.
- This is what we are called to do.

We are called to receive Christ and make him known to the world (as the Three Kings did) thus continuing, in some sense, His Epiphany, His manifestation to the world. Remember, when the wise men finished their worship of the new king, they were changed men because of their encounter the child Jesus and they would live new lives and travel new roads back to their people. We need to be likewise become changed people. Thus, Christ’s Epiphany must yeild an Epiphany for us, an Epiphany of faith that moves us to make him known to the world. And this is why for us, the jejune shibboleth “Happy Holidays” must never take the place of the more apropos “Merry Christmas.” The phrase “Merry Christmas” – invoking the memory of the birth of Christ -- is a small way of making Christ known to others. “Merry Christmas” is an Epiphany statement, that is part of our Christian call to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, coming into our world.

And so, as we see signs of Christmas coming to an end: the trees in the trash, the unplugged lights, the wilting flowers and decorations, don’t forget our Christian heritage, don’t forget our Christmas heritage. Remember always, that Christmas isn’t one day or one week for us. It is a whole season. It is time of rejoicing for the coming of our Savior as man, made manifest to us. It is a time of rejoicing at His coming to Mary, His coming to Joseph, His coming as Israel’s Messiah, and on this day, His manifesting himself to the Three Kings as the Savior, not just of Israel, but of the World.

And so, on Epiphany and in the days ahead, make a point to pause from your daily busy-ness and stop and praise God, praise him in mighty kingdom, praise in his highest heaven, and praise him in the joy of your soul, that Jesus Christ’s Epiphany wasn’t a private matter for the tribes of Israel, but was rather, and amazingly, an Epiphany for all of us, and for all the world. In life and in faith, it is a truth that without the quest, without the journey, there can be no Epiphany. So, whether it is for Three Kings or billions of Christians, today is the Epiphany of our Salvation.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor