



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 5, 2025

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm

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

icc



*Where is the newborn king of the Jews?
We saw his star at its rising
and have come to do him homage.*

Matthew 2:2

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

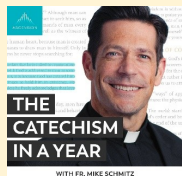
parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

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.

Adult Education Opportunities



<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>



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

In Spanish:
Fray Sergio Serrano
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biv-espanol-registration>



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending December 22, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	Figures	not	available
YTD	at	the	time
Needs	of	printing	bulletin

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending December 22, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	Figures not
2nd Collection	available.

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.
We appreciate your support!
If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Dear Parishioners,

It's a Boy. The Epiphany of Christ our Lord reflects that monarchical tradition but with one drastic change. You see, when Christ was born in Bethlehem, a proclamation did indeed go out about His birth, as it would with any royal birth. But the first people to be invited to see this newborn child – the first to whom He would be revealed – were not the royalty, nor landowners, nor kings. Nope. It was the shepherds -- the common folk – who were the first to see this royal child. A reversal of royal traditions.

The End of the Royal Line. After the common folk of the world gazed upon the face of their savior, their Lord, then and only then did the world's royalty get a glimpse of this Prince of Peace. The Kings were kind of at the end of the line, so to speak; they were among the last to come to that stable and see the child, the Lord Jesus, in the manger – and they did so on the 12th day of Christmas, which we call Epiphany.

Taking a Bow. Though they were the last to visit, the visitation by the three Kings is nonetheless significant. Their visit represents Christ being made known to the several corners of the world. The word Epiphany itself means “manifestation” – that is, a making known. Once the Kings knew of Him, it was deemed that all the nations knew of Him. Once the Kings knelt before Him (which was something that was unheard of), then the world knew that Jesus was not just some other child. Indeed not! He was God incarnate (God in the flesh), and he was to be a light to all nations. This visit of the Three Kings (the Three Magi) represented all the world being made subject to a new king. A king to whom other kings will bow down: yet a king not born in the trappings of royalty but in the abject poverty of a stable barely fit for animals.

Some Royal Recognition. Before I write about what these Three Kings from the East brought as gifts for our Savior, let me give a little background on each of these Magi.

- **King Melchior.** According to Church tradition, Melchior was the King of Persia. He is considered to be the oldest of the Three Kings and was the king who brought the gift of gold. King St. Melchior (likely martyred) died on January 1, 55 A.D.

- **King Gaspar.** According to Church tradition, Gaspar was the King of India. He was depicted as having a reddish beard and was the king who brought the gift of frankincense. He is thought to have come from southern India, where, according to tradition, Thomas the Apostle visited decades later. The name Gaspar comes from the Chaldean word “gizbar,” meaning “bringer of gifts.” King St. Gaspar died (likely martyred) on January 11, 55 A.D.
- **King Balthazar.** According to Church tradition, Balthazar was the King of Arabia (though some traditions say Ethiopia). He is often represented as a Middle Eastern or Black man in art and was the king who brought the gift of myrrh. It is said that Balthazar and the other two Magi met again in the year 54 in Armenia (somewhat equidistant from each King's kingdom) to celebrate Christmas. Their deaths occurred there, according to various sources, during the first two weeks of January. King St. Melchior (likely martyred) died on January 6, 55 A.D.

Three Things about the Three Kings. Here are some interesting facts about the Three Kings:

1. Epiphany is called “Three Kings Day” because, in part, King Melchior, King Gaspar, and King Balthazar have January 6 as their collective feast day (each also has other dates of holy days in various traditions, as noted earlier).
2. Each of the Three Kings, and all of the Three Kings collectively, are the patron saints of traveling salesmen (as they traveled with valuable commodities) and the patron saints of playing card manufacturers (as they, along with Jesus – the King of Kings – are four kings, like in a card deck),
3. Ss. Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthazar are the patron saints of Cologne, Germany, where their remains are buried in the Shrine of the Three Kings, having been moved there on July 23, 1164 by Holy Roman Emperor Fredrick Barbarossa. (Originally, their remains were housed in Constantinople until the year 314, and then they were moved to Milan, Italy, from 314 until 1164).

These Three Kings. Now, let's return to the prophetic gifts the Three Kings gave to our Lord. We'll start with some general thoughts about gift-giving. Getting the right gift for someone is sometimes

(Continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. John Enemuor	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Richard Kosior	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Sharon Seelig	Records Office, 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

Mallory O'Mara	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD (JAN 12.)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 42:1-4, 6-7

Centuries before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah gives us a description that fits perfectly.

SECOND READING: ACTS 10:34-38

St. Peter also gives a brief description of Jesus' life and mission and explains that the Good News is for everyone.

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

St. Luke describes how the humble Christ comes to be baptized by John in the river Jordan.

SAMARITANS

The Samaritans are in need of to work our outreach hotline. You work from your own home to vet the calls coming in to the Samaritans for help. You do not use your own phone number, rather a cell phone that is connected to the Samaritans. If interested, please call the Holy Cross Parish Office to leave your name and contact information please.

WEBSITE SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!

In the weeks ahead, our parish representative from Solutio, Inc., will be setting up the advertising for our website for the year. Please consider participating in this effort since the revenue from the ads is what makes the website possible at no cost to the parish. It's a great way to get your name in front of the families in the parish. Advertisements may be purchased for a business, family memorial, or you can sponsor an ad supporting Catholic Charities, Knights of Columbus, Vocations, etc.

Please give these ideas some thought. We need and appreciate your help! If you are interested or just curious as to prices and want more information, please contact (302) 865-7153 or Sponsorship@SolutioSoftware.com.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of May 2-4, 2025. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with grief and loss from abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Bernardo-Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text)

or lucyminn929@gmail.com by April 18.

MONDAY MTGS ON THE BIBLE

Beginning 1/6/25, we will be viewing and discussing From Genesis to Jesus, based on a book by Scott Hahn and presented by Matthew Leonard, giving an overview of how to best understand the Bible and the relationship to which God calls us. We meet in Luke's room in the ELC Monday mornings at 9 am. All are welcome.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS

Bishop William E. Koenig invites all married couples in the Diocese of Wilmington to the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass on World Marriage Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 1:00pm at St. Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, DE. Those celebrating significant anniversaries (5-year increments) - 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or any anniversary beyond 50, will receive a special certificate from the Bishop. Reservations are needed, no matter what the anniversary year. Reservations are required by February 4, 2025.

Bishop Koenig will be available for photos with interested couples beginning at 12:00 pm and again after the Mass. If you would like to have a photo taken with Bishop Koenig, please arrive at 12:00 pm or plan to stay after Mass. Questions may be referred to the Office for Marriage and Family Life at 302-295-0657 or by emailing OMFL@cdow.org. Registration can be completed by using the following link – <https://cdowcym.wufoo.com/forms/zdx6q1g0hx3j5m/>

PURSE BINGO:

Save the Date! **March 22, 2025** for our fundraiser to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp in June. More details to follow.

MASS INTENTION DECEMBER/JANUARY

6 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Evelyn Bonac
31 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Belt and Deighton Families
8 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Msgr. Daniel McGlynn
9 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Dennis Dickerson
HC 7:00 pm	For the People
10 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Gary Hartman
11 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	DM Hennessey/Pritchett Families
HC 5:00 pm	Donald & Steven Peer
12 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Shawn Hammer
ICC 8:30 am	Jerry and Gerry Bevenour
HC 9:30 am	Lanoue Family
ICC 11:00 am	Edward Hobbs
HC 11:30 am	Domingo Figuera
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

*Jan. 5 – Jan. 11 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for Gino Galli.
Jan. 5 – Jan. 11 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for Gloria Gallagher.*



Happy Epiphany

JANUARY 11/12, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

S. Garber
M. Miller

D. Darling
L. Darling

J. Novack
J. Novack

LECTORS

D. Dixon

7:30 AM

S. Lascano
S. Gede

P. Jackson
R. O'Neill

B. Gyamfi
E. Gyamfi

LECTORS

M. Jacobs

9:30 AM

F. Hanlin
D. McGinnis

L. Olmstead
V. Pepper

W. Shuron
H. Louissaint

LECTORS

S. Crossen
M. Sossich

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez
E. Pastoriza

M. Richard

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

B. Casey

8:30 AM

LECTORS

T. Woodeshck

J. Carrow

11:00 AM

LECTORS

S. Tucker

If you would like to be a part of our ministry team as an altar server, lector, or extra-ordinary minister of Holy Communion, please contact the parish office. We would love to have more volunteers.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held February 14 - 16, 2025 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.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Adorers needed! Do you have an hour a week to spend with our Lord in the Adoration Chapel? We are so blessed at Holy Cross to have the ability to spend time with Christ in the Eucharist. If you look at other parishes in our Diocese, they may have an hour a week, or a day a week to Adore our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Here at Holy Cross, we have 16 hours a day, seven days a week. Unfortunately, we are not filling all these hours. We should never leave our Lord alone... Most Saints spent an hour or hours a day in Adoration. Please consider your time. An hour a week. Is this too much? For more information, call, text or email John Murphy for a time convenient for you. 302-233-1779, jkm2015@verizon.net

QUOTE: "Each time you approach the Blessed Sacrament remember that Jesus has been waiting for you for twenty centuries for this personal visit from you." (St. Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei)

SUNDAY

7 am, 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY

5 pm

TUESDAY

4 pm

SATURDAY

5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 11 am,
12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm 7 pm, 8 pm

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, tune in to meet Father Sulvester Obumneme, Associate Pastor of St. Luke/St. Andrew Parish in Ocean City, Maryland. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and DioceseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at cdow.org/CatholicForum and [FaceBook.com/CatholicForum](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicForum).

SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE AT HOLY CROSS

LADIES: Would you like to give a gift of prayer for our Priest, specifically Fr. John Enoumu? We are still in need of additional sisters to give:

One Holy Hour One Day a Week

One Priest One Heart of Prayer

MEN are welcome and encouraged to join this ministry as substitutes.

PICK UP A PAMPHLET IN THE GATHERING SPACE AND contact: Delizabeth Diaz-Martinez -- email: 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

Feliz Año Nuevo 2025: Que este nuevo año nos llene de esperanza, buena salud, paz en nuestras familias y en nuestro mundo, amor, prosperidad y abundantes bendiciones.

Día de Reyes: El domingo, 5 de enero, 2025 celebraremos la Epifanía del Señor, conocido como día de Reyes, tendremos nuestra tradicional Rosca de Reyes. Los reyes llegarán para adorar al Niño y darles aguinaldo a nuestros niños. Si usted desea colaborar con una Rosca o con una olla de atole o champurrado hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman.

Bautismo del Señor: Con esta fiesta literalmente terminamos el tiempo navideño y regresamos al Tiempo Ordinario, Tenemos que bajar todo de Navidad después de la misa de la 11:30 am –Poner al TO que es color verde.

Foro Cristiano: Reanudaremos nuestro Foro Cristiano “ Santos y Camino a la Santidad” el viernes, 10 de enero 2025 de 6-8 de la noche, en el ELC. Quedan todos cordialmente invitados.

Voluntarios: 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

Peregrinos de Esperanza: El próximo Año del Jubileo será en 2025 y el tema escogido por el Santo Padre es “Peregrinos de Esperanza El Año Jubilar dará inicio con la gran tradición de abrir la Puerta Santa comenzará cuando el Papa Francisco abra la Puerta Santa de la Basílica de San Pedro el 24 de diciembre de 2024. Somos Iglesia, Somos parroquia, somos comunidad, somos familia en camino al jubileo. Como comunidad oremos y seamos peregrinos de esperanza para el prójimo.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Sacramentos:

Primera Reconciliación:

Retiro: Sábado, 11 de enero 2025 de 9-12 en el salón, solamente los niños
Sacramento: El sacramento de la Reconciliación será el sábado, 18 de enero en la Santa Cruz, en Dover a las 10:30 de la mañana .

Confirmación 2025: Sesión # 4 domingo 12 de diciembre de 3-5:30 en el salón parroquial.

La hoja de los padrinos entregarlos el 1 de enero .comuníquese con Alicia en la oficina parroquial llame al 410-482-8939 o por correo electrónico a dre@iccmaryl.org

Formación de Catequistas: Domingo, 12 de enero de 12-2 PM en el salón de conferencia de la oficina parroquial.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

“Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only-begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star.”

May this epiphany bring you the light of Christ.

Tammy Korosec, Coordinator of Religious education, Holy Cross Church

Class today, January 5th, 2025

Please arrive between 2:45-2:55 to be on time and not disrupt classes. Bring textbook, snack and a pencil. Kindergarteners bring bookbag, crayons, safety scissors, glue sticks and textbook.

Grades K-7 in the Elementary Building, drop off at double doors near school office. Pick up, parents walk through those same doors, pick up child(ren) and exit doors past bathroom. Second Floor students will be sent down to siblings on the first floor for easier pick up.

Grade 8 in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office Building C, second floor, students with siblings at the elementary building will be walked over to elementary building for pick up.

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith)

Class : January 12, 2025 Matthew/Mark room in the Parish office, 2nd floor building C. This program engages the family, whether it be parents with K-8 children, or a family who wants to enter the Catholic church and receive the sacraments of initiation together hand in hand. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences. Registration forms can be found at: <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

Deacon Bob's Adult Education – Starts January 7th! “The Wild Goose Series”. This series is an invitation for Catholics to make a more profound, life-giving relationship with the Holy Spirit. “The gift of the Holy Spirit is not merely something reserved for Confirmation. The Spirit desires a relationship with us that will take us on the greatest adventure imaginable: a journey to the very heart of God. The Holy Spirit desires to be present to us in a manner that brings light out of darkness, freedom out of bondage, order out of chaos and life out of death. Come Holy Spirit!” Classes Tuesday at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C. All are welcome, this is a free class. No workbooks are available for this series. If you have any questions, please contact tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122 for Tammy.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Make Up Class:

A reminder to our Confirmation candidates who missed class on November 17 (20), December 1 (4), or December 15 (18), makeup class will take place on January 5 from 3-5 pm in the Luke room, 2nd floor ELC Building C.

Kerygma Review Class:

Our next review class takes place on Wednesday, January 8 in the Matthew Mark room of the ELC building from 6-7:30 pm.

Confirmation Retreat:

Teens are reminded we will gather January 12 for 7:30 am Mass. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us - Please pray for our candidates, peer leaders and adults as they travel to Malvern Retreat House for Confirmation Retreat.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Rosary in a Year by Ascension Press

If you've ever struggled to build a habit of prayer, this podcast is for you. In Ascension's Rosary in a Year podcast, Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, guides listeners in a step-by-step journey that will change the way you pray – no matter where you are in your spiritual life. By starting small and adding on over time, listeners will find themselves falling more in love with this powerful Marian devotion, becoming a source of grace for the whole world.



Listen to discover....

- *How to build a daily habit of prayer*
- *How to form a relationship with Jesus and Mary*
- *The Biblical foundations of the Rosary*
- *How to meditate with sacred art (visio divina), saint writings, and scripture (lectio divina)*
- *The power of Mary's influence in your life*
- *...and more.*

Follow this link for more information:
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

ICC Religious Education:

Class start back today at 9:40am

Sacraments:

First Reconciliation:

Retreat: Saturday, January 11, 2025 @ ICC, 9am-12noon in Hall, children only.

Sacrament: Saturday, January 18 @ Holy Cross, Dover at 10:30am

Confirmation Preparation: Session #4 - Sunday, January 12th at 3pm-5:30 in the Parish hall.
Sponsor sheets due

Dear Parishioners,

During this Christmas Season, I hope you have had the opportunity to spend time with your families and loved ones. It's a wonderful time of the year to make memories and enjoy the company of those you hold close to your heart.

As we celebrate the Epiphany, we remember and honor the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus. May we always remember to honor Our Lord as he truly deserves.

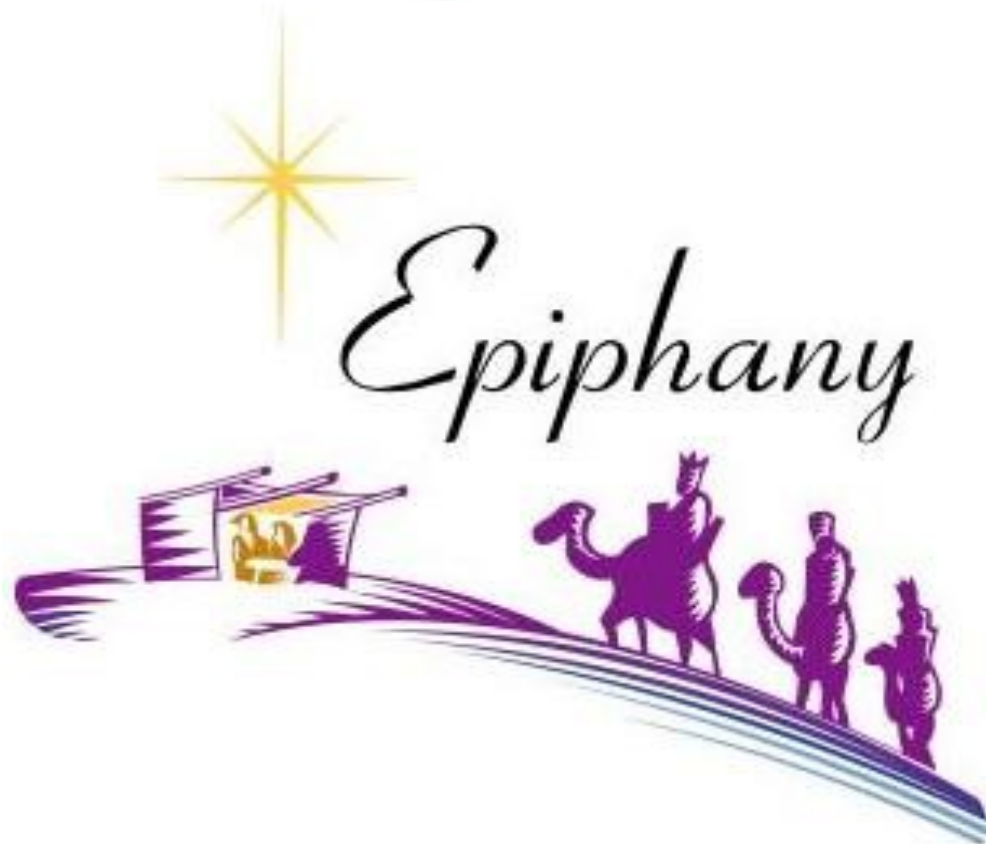
As we return to school this Monday, we are anxious and excited to begin new again, refreshed and ready to go. The students are such a joy to be around, and their eagerness and enthusiasm is contagious. I look forward to their new projects, new challenges, and all that is involved in their daily experiences here at Holy Cross.

Epiphany also means a sudden striking understanding of something. I pray that our students will engage in their studies as they return and find new understandings or an epiphany in their classwork and all that they do. I look forward to a prosperous and successful new year for our staff, administration, and students.

As we embark on this new year of 2025, our resolution remains to uphold a safe, respectful, and peaceful environment that is essential for guiding our school toward continued success. I am deeply grateful for the strong community we have here at Holy Cross, guiding us as we continue to "Walk by Faith" together in 2025.

God bless,

Mrs. O'Mara
Principal



tricky. I remember the story of a husband who gave his wife a gorgeous, extravagant diamond necklace for Christmas. His friend saw this expensive-looking gift and said, "That's a beautiful necklace; I can't imagine how you could afford it. But didn't your wife want a new car for Christmas?" And the husband replied, "Yes, but where am I going to find a fake car?" Unlike the husband in the joke, the Three Kings get exactly the right (and real) gifts. What do these Three Kings –Melchior, Casper, and Balthazar – bring the newborn King? They don't bring Him a gift card, or candy or, Phillies, or even Blue Rocks tickets. No. They brought Him the same things that we should bring Him.

- **Gold Plated.** King Melchior is said to have brought gold. This symbolizes the recognition of Christ's royalty and His kingship. The walls of the ancient temples were often lined with gold, as were the palaces of the kings, who were frequently thought of as connected to God somehow. And at Mass, the body and blood of Christ is placed on a paten (plate) and in a chalice made not of clay, not of glass, but of most often, and properly, made of gold – a noble metal fit for a king. *And we should also be bringing Him gold. That is to say, we should bring Him our recognition of His status as our Lord, our Savior, our King, and our God.*
- **A Scents-ible Gift.** King Caspar is said to have given frankincense. Frankincense is a type of incense that comes from the sap of trees found in Persia; it was used for centuries before Christ as a fragrance offered to God in worship. And so, this fragrance, usually offered to God alone, is offered today to this child, recognizing that He is no ordinary child, but rather He is a child worthy of worship and adoration – He is God among us. He is one whose sweetness will pale, the sweetness of the frankincense. *And we too, like the Kings, should offer to God that which is proper to God, our heavenly King – like faith, trust, adoration, and love. The incense of our sweet prayers should always rise up to our sweet Lord.*
- **An Arrivaderci Aroma.** King Balthazar is said to have brought myrrh in a jeweled cup. Myrrh was a type of embalming scent used to prepare the dead. This would be an odd gift to give a newborn, but this gift was a foreshadowing of the coming death of this child, a death prepared for by this gift at the time of His birth – a redemptive death that would give new life to us. *And we, too, like the Three Kings, should bring to Christ the myrrh of our recognition of His value and the redeeming power of His death and resurrection. We should be prepared to die with Christ, die to ourselves – take on that aroma of myrrh – and therein rise with Him.*

A Gift for Us. Even today, these gifts given to Christ should be remembered for their significance in Christ's Epiphany –His being made known to the world. These gifts given by Kings to a King recognized the royal nature of our Savior. Let us be like these Three Wise Men, these Magi, these Three Kings; let's follow the star –the light of Christ – and be willing to offer our recognition of who this child is. He is Jesus Christ, the one and the only Savior of mankind, and God's gift to us. There is no other.



Happy Epiphany

Happy Epiphany to all of you.

Your in Christ,
James S. Lentini
Pastor