

# 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 8, 2023

Epiphany of our Lord

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



Adoration of the Magi  
by Juan Bautista Maeyne  
c. 1612-1614  
© Doosan

icc

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm  
Closed Wednesday and Friday

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1  
Assumption, August 15  
All Saints' Day, November 1  
Immaculate Conception, December 8  
Christmas, December 25

*Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near*

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

*The seven Sacraments of the Church  
were instituted by Christ to confer grace.*

**Sacrament of Baptism.** Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).** Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

**Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.** Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

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

**Sacrament of Marriage.** Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

**Sacrament of Holy Orders.** If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

**Anointing of the Sick.** For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

## March to Life

**If you would like to attend the March for Life in Washington DC on January 20, 2023, please see the information below from St. John the Apostle Parish to reserve a seat on their bus.**

St. John the Apostle/St. Bernadette parish will attend the March For Life in Washington, DC. Come celebrate the 50th annual March for Life and the momentous overturn of Roe v. Wade. Join us in the continued fight to protect and respect the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

Once again, as Marchers we will bring our prayers and the Pro-Life message to our nation's capital. Our work to end abortion is far from over.

Bus fee: \$15 per person. Please RSVP your seat by Jan.8th. We will begin the day with Holy Mass at **8am**. Bus will depart at 9am and return by 9pm.

For more information, please contact Vivian Alvarado at the parish office (302) 422-5123 x100 or Ramon Quinene (302) 423-1525.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending December 25, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$17,084	\$29,200	(\$12,116)
YTD	\$665,064	\$713,300	(\$48,236)
Needs	\$1,366	\$1,604	(\$238)
Christmas	\$20,030	\$39,000	(\$18,970)

## WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending December 25, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	Not available
Second Collection	Not available

Updated figures for ICC will be reported in the next bulletin.

**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,

This Pastor's Column will be in two parts — the first focusing on the Epiphany of our Lord and the second focusing on some of the forgotten saints of Christmas.

**The King Thing.** In countries where a King is the sovereign leader, people are subjects to the monarch. England, would be an example of that: England has a monarch (King Charles III) — and the residents of Great Britain are not citizens, they are subjects. As it was in Christ's time, so it is still with monarchies today: When the Monarch has a child, a proclamation goes out declaring the birth of the child, declaring his given name. Then the child is presented to the King (his father) and then to the other members of the royal family and the Lords, and then finally — last on the list — to the people of the Kingdom.

**Who's on First.** The Epiphany of our Lord, is a reflection of that monarchical tradition, but with one drastic change: 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'd be revealed — were not the royalty of the day; nor the land-owners nor the bigwigs. Nope! It was the shepherds, the common folk who were the first to see this royal child. A complete reversal of royal traditions.

**And Finally...** After the common folk of the world gazed upon the face of their savior, their Lord, then and only then, did the royalty of the world gets a glimpse of this wonder-counselor, this prince of peace. The Kings are among the last to come to that stable and see the child in the manger — on the day we celebrate today, the Epiphany. But this visitation by the three Kings is still very 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, all the nations knew — Christ was light to be light to all nations. This visit all represents all the kingdoms of the world being made subject to a new king. A king to whom other kings will bow down: A king not born in the trappings of royalty, but in the abject poverty of a stable barely fit for animals.

**Three Kings, Three Gifts.** And what do these three kings — traditionally known as Melchior, Casper and Balthazaar — bring the new born King. They bring, the same things that we should bring Him.

- **King Melchior** is said to have brought gold. This is to symbolize the recognition of Christ's royalty, his kingship. Walls of the ancient temples were often lined with gold, as were the palaces of the kings who were often thought of as connected to God somehow. And at Mass, the body and blood Christ is placed on a paten (plate) and in a chalice made not of clay, not of glass but of very often made of gold —

a noble metal fit for a king. And we should be bring him gold also. That is to say, we should bring him our recognition of his status as our Lord, our Savior, our King and our God.

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

**Star Gazing.** Even today these gifts given to Christ should be remembered for their significance in Christ's Epiphany — his being made known to the world. These gifts given by Kings to a King recognized the royal nature of our Savior. Let us be like these three wise men, these three kings, let's follow the star — that is the light of Christ, and be willing to offer our recognition of who this child is, who this Jesus Christ is, who this Savior is. He is the one and the only Savior of mankind. There is no other. And in the spirit of Epiphany, let's leave church today and not be afraid to let the world know that.

—

**The Forgotten Saints of Christmas.** With Christmas Season ending tomorrow (January 9, with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord), let's flashback to December 25 — the start of the Christmas season. I often note that St. Anastasia, who is mentioned dur-

*(continued on page 10)*



## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.  
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn  
Rev. Brennan Ferris

Pastor  
Pastor Emeritus  
Parochial Vicar

## HC CLERGY

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

Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon

## ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell

Deacon

## 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  
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

## RECENTLY DECEASED (HC)

Condolences to the families of those who have recently died:

- Francisca Rivera
- Lee McCulley
- Efran San Antonio
- William Windsor
- William Ralph
- Keith DeFransisco
- Maureen Welsh

## NEW PARISHIONERS (HC)

We welcome those newly registered parishioner to Holy Cross:

- Robert Vail
- Margaret Staples
- Isaac Fettig

## 2ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JAN 15)

### FIRST READING: ISAIAH 49:3, 5-6

With God, failure is often a prelude to a greater success. Failing with Israel, the mission of Isaiah becomes a mission to the world.

### SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:1-3

For St. Paul, the only true nation is the nation of those who call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### GOSPEL: JOHN 1:29-34

John was born to reveal Jesus to Israel. We are to reveal him to the world.

## CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week.

Next Saturday, January 14th, learn about the new book, "The Prayer Book for Tired Parents" by Debbie and David Cowden. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum), or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts.

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! Get away for an intimate weekend – no group sharing required. We would love more couples to attend the next weekend. For information or to register, visit our website <http://www.wvme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

As we transition to a new year, many people make resolutions to start new positive habits. Maybe you're already satisfied with your marriage, but there's always room for deepening your love. Pick 1 new action – perhaps a daily honest compliment, a favor, praying together... OK, even if only once a week feels doable, DO IT.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on World Marriage Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 1 pm at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, Delaware. The Mass coincides with National Marriage Week, February 7 through 12. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage and Family Life 302-295-0657 or [egaus@cdow.org](mailto:egaus@cdow.org)

## SWITCH TO eGIVING (HC)

Looking for a good stewardship habit? Try eGiving – it streamlines your generosity and lets you do even more to help Church of the Holy Cross grow our ministries that share the Good News of God's love. You can make the switch today! Signing up is easy from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and you can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family. Go to Holy Cross website: [holycrossdover.org](http://holycrossdover.org) and

## MASS INTENTIONS JANUARY

### 9 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Thomas Nilan

### 10 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Lillian Worchester

### 11 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Delores Blasko

### 12 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Jun Luna  
ICC 7:00 pm For the People

### 13 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Bridget Ryan

### 14 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Richard Arndt (LI)  
HC 5:00 pm Marie Schaal

### 15 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Marie Kozel  
ICC 8:30 am Anirah Kayla Mapp  
HC 9:30 am Joe McLaughlin  
ICC 11:00 am DM Neduchin Family  
HC 11:30 am DM Delagado Greener Family  
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION  
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

click on the Give Online button at the top of the page.

## FOOTPRINTS

The Footprints Ministry, the Diocesan Miscarriage Ministry, offers resources for families on their journey after the loss of their unborn child, whether it was very recently or many years ago. We aid mothers, fathers, couples, and families with support, education, and compassion by providing books, guidance, and resources on the website [www.cdow.org](http://www.cdow.org).

## HOLY CROSS JANUARY 14/15

### EMHC

### SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. Darling  
L. Darling

F. Ernst  
W. Thomas

S. Murawski  
B. Richardson  
L. Richardson

### LECTORS

J. Davis  
D. Dixon

7:30 AM

J. Denney  
A. Fischer

J. Fischer  
R. Fritzsche

B. Gyamfi  
E. Gyamfi  
S. Shevock

### LECTORS

J. Davis

9:30 AM

D. Martinez  
P. Ford

S. Ford  
F. Hanlin

K. Fernandez  
G. Maddelena  
C. Pepper-Imof

### LECTORS

R. Alderman  
J. Coffield

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez  
E. Patoriza

M. Richard

### LECTORS

TBD

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

E. Costello

### LECTORS

G. Godfrey

9:30 AM

G. Taraila

### LECTORS

F. Tucker

1:00 PM

TBD

Thank you to all who help with our various ministries at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception. We are truly grateful for your service to your parishes.

We are always in need of more Lectors, Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion, and Altar Servers.

Please call your parish offices if you would be interested in joining in with those who already serve.

## ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings where you can spend quality time with Our Lord. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY 6 am, 4 pm, 5pm, 6 pm

MONDAY 5 am, 5 pm

TUESDAY 6 am, 8 pm

SATURDAY 12 pm, 1 pm,  
2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

## ADULT EDUCATION

The Catechism in a Year  
With Fr. Mike Schmitz



In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

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

In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/bi-y-espanol-registration>



## IS GOD CALLING YOU THIS NEW YEAR TO A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM?

If you have a desire to develop a more intimate relationship with God through a deeper form of prayer, God may be calling you to the spirituality of Carmel: the spirituality of Saints Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross and Therese of Lisieux. You can explore this call with the Community of Mary of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites. We meet the second Saturday of every month at 9:15 a.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Seaford, DE for Morning Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours and Lectio Divina, or sacred reading, of the Sunday Scripture. For further information, and to join us for prayer, please call Dawn Waehler, OCDS, 302-249-6904 or Diane Householder, OCDS, 302-855-1190.

- Los sacerdotes, diáconos, seminaristas y todos los que laboramos en las parroquias de la Santa Cruz y la Inmaculada Concepción les desea un Feliz Año Nuevo, que este nuevo año traiga salud, fe, prosperidad y amor. Recordemos que nuestra Madre María es Reina de la Paz y su Hijo es el príncipe de la Paz.
- El Papa Francisco nos invita a que oremos con fe y confianza por la paz. Paz en nuestros corazones, en nuestras familias y en el mundo entero.
- Nuestro sincero agradecimiento a todos los ministerios que han trabajado para una que nuestra parroquia de testimonio del amor de Dios mediante sus talentos y su buena voluntad de trabajar para el bien de la iglesia y construyendo una comunidad mas fervorosa, más unida y devota a nuestra santísima Madre la virgen María que nos lleva a su hijo Jesucristo nuestro Salvador.
- El domingo, 8 de enero de 2023 es la Epifanía del Señor y celebraremos nuestra tradicional Fiesta de Reyes, si alguna persona o familia desea donar una Rosca de Reyes o un atole, Champurrado o Ponche comuníquese con la Sra. Irma Venezia. Los Reyes Magos del Oriente estarán trayendo presentes a todos los niños presente.
- Los candidatos a la Confirmación, por favor de llenar todos los requisitos antes del Retiro de Confirmación que es el 28 de enero. Llame o visite la oficina de Educación Religiosa.
- Gracias a todos los que ayudaron con todas las actividades en nuestra parroquia en especial al Ministerio de Arte y ambientación.
- Feliz Año Nuevo 2023

## ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

**Retiro para la Primera Reconciliación:** es el sábado 7 de enero, 2023 de 9:00 AM - 12 mediodía en el Salón Parroquial. Esto es solo para los niños

**CONFIRMACION DE JOVENES:** Tercera Sesión es hoy domingo, 18 de diciembre. a las 2:30 – 5:00 pm en el salón.

Cuarta Sesión es Domingo, 15 de enero, a las 2:30-5pm en el Salón Parroquial.

Retiro de Confirmación es el 28 de enero en Holy Cross, Dover .

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class 1/22/2023 3 to 5 pm

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Registration forms available at [holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation](http://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation)

If you have any questions contact Tammy Korosec either 302-674-5787 x122 or [tkorosec@holycrossdover.org](mailto:tkorosec@holycrossdover.org)

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### LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

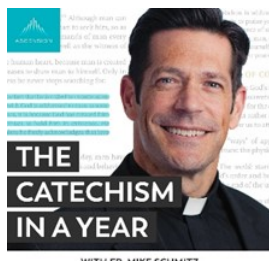
Next class January 8, 2023 at 10:30 am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Early Learning Center. Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF? Contact Tammy Korosec.

## ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

"The Eucharist in Scripture" with Scott Hahn  
*"In The Eucharist in Scripture, discover God's plan as it is expressed through the Bible and the Mass. This six-lesson study, presented by Dr. Scott Hahn, will unlock the meaning of covenant, sacrifice, and sacrament as understood in the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation.*

Built around three of Dr. Hahn's foundational talks: "The Lamb's Supper," "The Fourth Cup," and "Consuming the Word," The Eucharist in Scripture examines the biblical foundations of the Eucharist and explores the Church's liturgy as the original context for the books of the Bible."

Classes begin January 10th at either 9AM or 7 PM in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Parish Office. This will be a free class. No workbooks will be provided. If you are interested contact Tammy Korosec at either [tkorosec@holycrossdover.org](mailto:tkorosec@holycrossdover.org) or call (302) 674-5787 X 122



Join us in a great New Year's resolution that will change your life – let's read the entire Catechism in a year!

Holy Cross Catholic Church together using Fr. Mike Schmitz's podcast, "The Catechism in a

Year," beginning January 1st. With this podcast, we won't just read the Catechism in 365 days... this podcast will help us understand what it means to be Catholic and allow those truths to shape our daily lives!

You can find this podcast on any podcast app, on YouTube, or just by clicking this link!  
[www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ciy-registration-parish](http://www.ascensionpress.com/pages/ciy-registration-parish)

## CONFIRMATION AT HOLY CROSS

### Confirmation Classes

This week Sunday, January 8 and Wednesday, January 11

Next classes - Sunday, January 22 and January 25

### Confirmation Retreat

Makeup day retreat takes place January 28 at Holy Cross. Please keep this date open if you were unable to attend the overnight retreat in November.

### Jesus Night

Open to any teen 6th grade through 12th grade. Friday evening, February 3 from 7-9 pm at Holy Cross. Enjoy a night of fellowship, fun, witness and worship with Damascus Camp. Cost is \$10 per person, and teens must be accompanied by a parent. You must register on line <https://www.cdowcym.org/forms/jesus-night-registration/>

### CHWC - Drexel Hill - June 25 to June 30, 2023

We still have a few spots left - please let Mrs. Darling know if you would be interested in serving the community of Drexel Hill this summer.

## SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Religious Education classes run Sunday mornings until May 7th, 9:40 am-10:50 am. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Alicia Poppiti @410-482-8939 or [dre@icmarydel.org](mailto:dre@icmarydel.org) for more information. Also, If you have any difficulty with affording RE, please call Alicia Poppiti, and the office can assist you.

### Classes resume on January 8th.

### Youth Confirmation for Immaculate Conception:

Fourth Session is Sunday, January 15, at 2:30-5pm in the Parish hall.

### First Reconciliation Immaculate Conception:

Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation will be Saturday, January 21st at Holy Cross @ 10am.



We call them duds. In ordinary parlance, dud is not a very flattering term. Generally, a dud is something non-functional, such as an old battery, or perhaps a dud might describe something that proved to be a disappointment like a song that never made the charts. The only example of a dud that I can think of that might have a positive twist would be the nuggets of caramel dipped in chocolate known as Milk Duds. I have used duds for years. In my world, duds can be fun, almost entertaining. Because, you see, in my world "dud" is an acronym. That would be D.U.D. Each letter standing for a word. All I need to do is write "D.U.D." on the board and my students know exactly what to do.

D means to DECODE. U means to UNSCRAMBLE, and D means to DEFINE. Mathematics has a language of its very own. We must all speak the same language if we are all going to know what we are talking about. Knowing how to use terms properly when discussing procedure or asking a question is of paramount importance in my world. Besides, my students like duds. I like them, too. I hope you will, as well.

Listed below are fourteen duds. The common denominator here is Christmas. All of them are easily solved. All you need is a piece of paper and a pencil and an alphabet. Here is what you do.

Write all 26 letters of the alphabet on a piece of paper, next to each letter write the corresponding number.

A—1

B—2

C---3

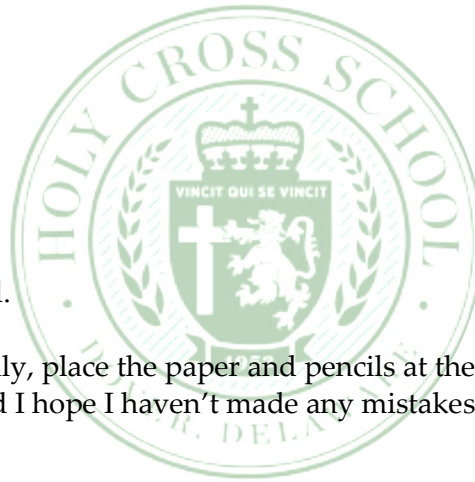
Down to the 26th letter Z.

Example: 5—19—21—10—19

Decode: E—S—U—J—S

Unscramble: JESUS

Define: The Salvation for all mankind.



Fix some hot cocoa, assemble the family, place the paper and pencils at the ready and have some fun. I promise there are no Math words, and I hope I haven't made any mistakes.

Ready??

8—1—1—18—20—26—2—12—1

19--9--9--1--8—1

18—13—18—8—25

2—13—5—5—5—18—4—3

5—1—18—7—12—2—9

5—13—12—5—20—5—2—8—8

6—1—9—14—20—14

6—1—9—14—20—3—1—7—13—9

6—1—9—14—19—14—5—18—3—11—5—14

25—14—5—15—4—11

18—15—4—5—8

5—15—3—18—10—9—5

12—8—13—15—18—3—9—5

16—25—1—5—8—14—16—9

All done? The solution page will be given next week.

Until then; I will pray for you and your wonderful children.

ing the praying of the Roman Canon, has her feast day on December 25. Thus, in addition to being gypped out of feast-day gifts, poor St. Anastasia is also never the recipient of a feast, a memorial or even an optional memorial at Mass. As a matter of fact, due to the nature of December 25 as a privileged date on the Church's calendar, her feast day can never be observed.

**Eighty-sixed on the 25th.** This got me to thinking: Is St. Anastasia alone in this Christmas lock-out? Well, I'll end the suspense: The answer is no. There are actually 19 saints (including one group of Martyrs) who are observed on that day. Each of these holy men and women have their feast day on December 25 and, thus, are often overlooked in the annals of Christendom. As we end the season of Christmas, I want to highlight the lives of four of these 19 saints and take you beyond the Christmas tree!

**St. Anastasia: Burning Love.** St. Anastasia's story is mainly relayed to us from the ancient writings called the Acts of Saint Chrysogonus the Martyr. Of noble birth, she was widowed young, and spent her time and money assisting persecuted Christians. While visiting St. Chrysogonus, a priest imprisoned for practicing his faith, she was likewise imprisoned. Under Roman Emperor Diocletian's harsh decrees against Christians, St. Anastasia, who would not recant her faith, was taken to a nearby island and was burned alive for being a Christian. The Church of Sant'Anastasia al Palatino (in Rome) was dedicated in her honor in the fourth century. Until the mid-1960s, St. Anastasia was commemorated during the Christmas Mass at Dawn, each Christmas Day. St. Anastasia, pray for us.

**Gee, It's Quiet!** Bl. Bentivoglio de Bonis was born in 1188 in San Severino Marche, Italy. For those fans of Medaglia d'Oro coffee, you will note that like the "g" in Medaglia, the "g" in Bentivoglio is silent. Imagine, a silent "g" -- we'd never do such a thing in English, RIGHT? Anyway, Bl. Bentivoglio became a fervent disciple of St. Francis, and became one of first -- if not the first -- Franciscan Priests. He was model of humility, obedience and charity. Once, when inflamed by the Holy Spirit while preaching to the people, it is said that a luminous star appeared in his forehead that made his whole-body shimmer and shine with pure light. Many miracles and many conversions were attributed to him. He passed from this life on December 25, 1232 and won his Medaglia d'Oro (Gold Medal) from God, and now shares eternity with the saints in Heaven. Bl. Bentivoglio, pray for us.

**Incensed by Incense.** At Nicomedia, several thousand of the faithful had gathered for Mass on the day of our Lord's Nativity. Christian-hating Roman Emperor Diocletian heard about this gathering and ordered that the doors of the Church to be closed, and fire to be kindled around the building. He then placed vessel filled with incense at the entranceway where wishing to escape the burning Church, would be forced to offer incense to Roman god Jupiter, in order to be allowed to leave in safety. All the Christian present shouted with one voice that they preferred to die for Christ, then worship a false god. And on that December 25, 304, those Christian martyrs were born into heaven on the anniversary of the day Christ was born into the world. Holy Martyrs of Nicomedia, pray for us.

**A Man called "Crazy Jim"** (This is Not Autobiographical). St. Jacopone started out as a decadent, wealthy, and worldly man named Jacamo. He was married to a holy woman named Vanna (though this one did not turn letters on Wheel of Fortune). Vanna had always prayed that one day Jacamo would abandon his worldly ways. Following death in an accident, Jacamo vowed to honor her wishes, giving up his wealth and becoming a beggar. His friends nicknamed him "Jacopone" (meaning "Crazy Jim"). He later joined the Franciscan order, living an life of poverty. He would spend his final years writing Latin hymns; the most famous of which is the "*Stabat Mater*" (sung during the Stations of the Cross). He died December 25, 1306, during Midnight Mass. Whether or not his envelope made it into the collection basket, only the Franciscans know for sure! St. Jacopone, pray for us.

So, as we wrap up this Christmas season, let's take a moment to remember those holy men and women blessed to share a sacred day with the Lord whom they loved so very much. Saints of Christmas Day, pray for us!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor