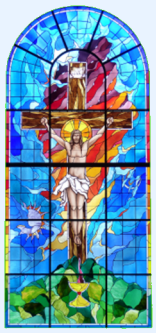

Church *of the* Holy Cross

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception

July 20, 2025 — **16th Sunday Ordinary Time**

holy cross

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

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

Sunday Mass Schedule
Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

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

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

"There is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her."

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

sacraments

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.

happenings

Adult Education Opportunities

Catechism in a Year:
https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear

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

In Spanish:
Fray Sergio Serrano https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration

stewardship

Weekly Offering (HC)

Ending July 6, 2025

Offertory Type	Received	Budgeted/ Needed	Difference
Regular	$29,394	$26,150	$3,244
YTD	$29,394	$26,`50	$3,244
Needs	$1,795	$1,775	$20

Weekly Offering (ICC)

Ending July 6, 2025

Offertory Type	Received
Regular	$4,,822
Second	$479

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.

pastor's column

Dear Parishioners,

In 1999, there was a fairly bad movie called "The Mystery Men." It was a film about a second-string team of superheroes: Mr. Furious, the Sphinx, the Bowler, the Shoveler, the Blue Raja, and others. One hero in the group was the Invisible Boy. Now, the Invisible Boy's power was, as per his name, that he could make himself invisible. However, there was a caveat to that miraculous power of invisibility: the Invisible Boy could render himself invisible, but only if no one else was looking. So, if he said he was going to become invisible, someone would say, "But I can still see you." And the response would be, "That's because you're looking."

Audacious! It was a scam of circular reasoning, but the movie was written in a light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek tone that allowed for such a claim. But the Invisible Boy's claim was nonetheless audacious — that he could make himself invisible, but only if no one was looking. That brings me to the topic of a man named Abdullah Hashem. Have you ever heard of Abdullah Hashem? I would imagine you have not. While he has received some media coverage here and there, his story hasn't garnered much attention, and perhaps that is a good thing.

Put on your Seatbelts. Abdullah Hashem is the leader of the Ahmadi Religion of Peace and Light, a registered non-profit religious organization in the United States that operates out of a former orphanage in Cheshire, England. Mr. Hashem has managed to generate a decent-sized following for this new faith. What does he claim about himself? Well, put on your seatbelts for this one. He claims to be the successor of Jesus, the successor of Muhammad, and the Pope. He says that he, not Jesus, is the Savior of Mankind. As for the religion, it is based on a twisted form of Shia Islam, featuring a mix of Islamic theology and a small dash of Christianity. All of this is overlayed with conspiracy theories about the Illuminati and aliens controlling world leaders.

His followers were instructed to sell their homes, possessions, and donate the proceeds (along with their salaries) to Hashem for the sake of the faith. His HQ is located in a former orphanage; there, families and their children live with Hashem. Black-capped men with attack dogs guard the grounds.

He Can Do What with the Moon? Among the claims of Mr. Hashem is that he has the divine power to make the moon disappear by the force of his will. Additionally, this "faith" states that, in addition to the covenants God made with Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Mohammed, He also made a covenant with Mr. Hashem. He also claims that Jesus survived the crucifixion by swapping souls with Simon of Cyrene. He claims that George Washington was actually German philosopher Adam Weishaupt, who founded the Illuminati. He also claims to possess the rings of King Solomon, which he says grant him supernatural power, and he is able to command Genies (a nod to Barbara Eden). The list is longer, but I will stop there as I have surpassed my crazy quotient for the day.

Question. One of the questions that comes to mind when I reflect on everything I wrote above is this: Why would anyone believe this guy? Why would anyone sell their homes and give the proceeds, as well as their salaries, to this guy? True, some may say, but didn't Jesus "give up everything and follow me"? No, he said, *"go, sell what you have and give to the poor, … then come, follow me."* He wasn't scamming for money. He was calling the faithful to live a more prayerful lifestyle and to embrace His call to "love thy neighbor."

Cult Results. So, again, regarding Mr. Hashem, why would anyone believe this guy? Why would anyone follow him? To quote G.K. Chesterton: "When people cease to believe in God, they do not then believe in nothing, but in anything." Our society has become unhinged from traditional religion; thus, things like atheism, new age religions, superstitions, agnosticism, and a multitude of cults have cropped up. When people lack a firm religious foundation, cults and the like provide an appeal — especially if they have a charismatic leader — for young adults seeking the meaning of life, seeking a purpose. How alluring are these cults to young people (although it is worth noting that older people also fall prey, though in smaller numbers):

- Recall the cult led by Jim Jones in Guyana in the 1970s, commonly called the Jonestown cult. The Jonestown compound was a communist community. As Jones said, "I believe we're the purest communists there are." His wife added that they were "dedicated to live for socialism… and social equality." For all his words about the liberation of people, Jones did not permit members to leave without his permission. He had followers so devout that 918 of them (many of them young), on Jones' command, drank a cyanide-laced Kool-Aid -type drink with the intention of killing themselves. To quote G.K. Chesterton: "When people cease to believe in God, they do not then believe in nothing, but in anything."
- Recall the Heaven's Gate cult in San Diego, which saw human nature as a negative impairment. In 1997, some 39 members of the cult took phenobarbital mixed with apple sauce or pudding and washed it down with vodka, and then self-asphyxiated themselves. Why? The Heaven's Gate cult believed that the Hale-Bopp Comet (coming near Earth that year) was actually a UFO that would take their souls to another "level of existence above human." To quote G.K. Chesterton: "When people cease to believe in God, they do not then believe in nothing, but in anything."
- Recall the Malindi Cult in Kenya. Its founder, Paul Mackenzie, a former taxi driver in Nairobi, convinced people that he could personally communicate with God. The Kenyan government accused his cult of brainwashing and abducting

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC Clergy

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. John Enemuo	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Wilson Paulose	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

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. I18
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

Mailing Address

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

July 27—17th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Genesis 18:20-32

Be persistent in prayer.

Second Reading: Colossians 2:12-14

God has forgiven our sins and given us the chance to come alive with Christ.

Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

Jesus teaches us how to pray the Our Father and invites us to search for him—for the one who asks always receives.

Samaritan's Food Pantry

Thank you for providing food to 1625 Families (3764 Adults, 3662 Children) during the previous 12 months (July 2024 - June 2025).

The pantry is still in need of the following items: Cereal, oatmeal, one pound bags of white rice, peanut butter, jelly, Brownie mix, canned goods, hamburger helper, Manwich, and soups/chunky soups. Meat or burger can be left in the freezer in the drop-off door behind the rectory.

Cathedral of St. Peter

The Cathedral of Saint Peter, in the historic Quaker Hill section of the City of Wilmington, is the Bishop's own parish and the center of Catholicism in our diocese. It was built over 200 years ago – 50 years before the founding of the Diocese of Wilmington - and continues with a small but dedicated parish community and school. In 2015, the diocese instituted an annual special collection to support the maintenance and ministry of our Cathedral. This year, the collection will be held on August 16 & 17. For more information and to make a secure online donation, visit www.downtowncatholic.com. We thank you for your generosity.

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 August 1 - 3 and October 3 - 5 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.

Recently Deceased

Our condolences to the families of the recently deceased members:

- Ailany Zeynep Chilel Reynoso!
- Amora Elizabeth Davis
- Amani Adele Davis
- Amiree Lynn Davis
- Andrew Galen Noce

New Parishioners

Welcome to our newly registered parishioners at Holy Cross:

- Phil and Lupe Reynolds
- Anthonette Brand and William Holloway
- Darren Daigrepont

2025 Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal – "Together in Hope"

If you have not committed to the Appeal as of yet, please return your envelope this week. Blank envelopes are available in the Gathering Space on the tables. May God guide you in your decision of your sacrifice to this important campaign. We need your support to help reach our goal.

Attend a Virtual Open House

To learn about Salesian spirituality and the St. Francis de Sales Association, you are cordially invited to join us at a virtual open house on Zoom across any device. All meetings are held on Sundays, from 7 – 8:00 p.m. CT. You can request meeting details by visiting our website: https://sfdsassociation.org/

2025 Open House Dates: September 28, November 23.

Interested women are also welcome to contact Marie Caccese, Holy Cross parishioner and Consecrated Daughter of St. Francis de Sales at MCaccese@comcast.net

Mass Intention July

21 Monday

HC 8:00 am Doris Lillard

22 Tuesday

HC 8:00 am Rita Jung

23 Wednesday

HC 8:15 am Doris Lillard

24 Thursday

HC 8:O00 am Charles Schwartz
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

25 Friday

HC 8:00 am Kenneth & Lida Smith

26 Saturday

HC 8:00 pm Adolf Korosec, Sr.
HC 5:00 pm Lilla Darling

27 Sunday

HC 7:30 am Florenzo "Larry" Amoroso
ICC 8:30 am Thomas Conlon
HC 9:30 am Pete and Ann Nellius
ICC 11:00 am Monica Brusca
HC 11:30 am From the People
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

July 20—July 26 *Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of Parishioners of Holy Cross.*
July 201-July 26 *Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of Dino Panichi.*

40 Days for Life Sidewalk Advocates Needs YOU!

If you have the heart for praying for moms and babies as the last line of defense, please join our small group on Thursdays after mass till Noon. I'm also needing volunteers to be present in the afternoon. Many babies have been spared because a mother saw an advocate on the sidewalk. God saves even if no words are exchanged. He alone changes hearts! Let's chat!! Donna Latteri 862-266-1099

Next campaign begins Sept 24 - Nov 2.

July 26/27 2025

	W. Thom		Servers
5:00 PM	M> Miller B. Richards	G. Richards C. Helwig	N. Klaus Z. Klaus
			Lectors
			M. Phillips
7:30 AM	W. Thomas M. Thompson	A. Wyllie M. Jacobs	B. Gyamfi E. Gyamfi J. Gyamfi
			Lectors
			K. Meire
9:30 AM	J. Lausten M. Lausten	C. Robinson J. Salamone	H. Loussaint G. Maddalena
			Lectors
			L. Lewandowski C. Parks
11:30 AM	T. Hernandez E. Pastoriza	M. Richards	TBD
			Lectors
			TBD

Immaculate Conception

8:30 AM	B. Casey		**Lectors**
			G. Godfrey
11:00 AM	F. Cristiano		**Lectors**
			Lausten Family

HELP WANTED—WE NEED YOU

We are looking for more volunteers to help us bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound of our parish.

We can always use more volunteers to help at Mass as an Altar Server, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Communion, or a Lector. If interested please contact the Parish Office at 3020-674-5787.

Adoration Chapel

The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration, the privileged "place" for our encounter with God.
Pope Francis - World Youth Day 2016

Hours open and needed:
Sunday 7AM 5-6PM 8-9PM
Monday 7-8AM 5-6PM
Friday 2-3PM
Saturday 12-1PM 1-2PM 7-8PM 8-9PM

If you are a current Adorer and can no longer make your hour, please make contact with Adoration Coordinator. Contact John Murphy for more information. Phone or text at 302-233-1779 or email jkm@verizon.net.

Class Reunion for HCHS

Holy Cross High School Alumni Reunion
Saturday August 16, 2025 at 6:30 in the Holy Cross Gym.
Visit Holycrossdover.com to register
Any questions call Scott Davis '87 at 302-270-9290.

Rachell's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of October 24-26, 2025. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with grief and loss from abortion or miscarriage. 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 October 11.

Mas Importante!

New Day Pregnancy Care Center needs Spanish speaking volunteers. Training is provided. Please consider donating a few hours a week. Contact Brittnee Finger 302-241-4270.

Holy Cross Golf League

The Holy Cross Golf League is sponsoring a golf tournament at Jonathan's Landing on Wednesday, September 3 to benefit the Youth Ministry at Holy Cross. We're looking for golfers and sponsors. Please contact Phil Spampinato, 302-382-2979, Wes Grau, 302-270-8111 or Greg Coury, 302-883-4000 for more information.

- **¡Caminemos juntos como peregrinos de la esperanza!** El Jubileo 2025 es una ocasión única para fortalecer nuestra fe, vivir la esperanza y ser testigos del amor de Dios en el mundo. Se les invita el Jueves ,17 de julio a una Peregrinación a San Cristóbal :1861 Harbor Dr, Chester, MD 21619. Adoremos a Jesús Sacramentado en este jueves Eucarístico y buscar la indulgencia plenaria, que nos ayuda a purificarnos y a reconciliarnos con Dios. una invitación a la conversión y la acción. Durante este tiempo, los cristianos estamos llamados a: Renovar nuestra fe, participando en la oración, la Eucaristía y el estudio de la Palabra de Dios. Ejercer la misericordia, a través del perdón y el servicio a los más necesitados. Hacer peregrinaciones, visitando los lugares santos y cruzando la Puerta Santa en Roma o en nuestras propias iglesias. Si desea participar de esta peregrinación hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Saldremos de Dover a las 2:00 pm y partiremos de regreso a las 7:00pm,
- **Educación Religiosa 2025-26** Las inscripciones para las clases de Educación Religiosa 2025-26 K-8 "YA ESTAN ABIERTAS" **Opción 1:** Kínder a 4.º grado y preparación sacramental/OCIA: martes por la tarde, de 6:00 a 7:30. 5.º a 8.º grado: miércoles por la tarde, de 6:00 a 7:30. **Opción 2:** LAFF (Catequesis Familiar Viviendo en Familia de Fe); Reunión de adultos y niños, el primer y tercer domingo de mes. La familia trabaja en actividades entre ambos. Para situaciones familiares especiales en las que su hijo no pueda asistir a ninguno de los horarios mencionados, comuníquese con nuestra oficina para programar una cita y trabajaremos con usted. Por favor, no deje que la educación religiosa de su hijo se vea interrumpida. Para familias con niños con necesidades especiales, ofrecemos formación en la fe individualmente. Para más detalles, comuníquese con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa. La preparación para la Primera Reconciliación y la Primera Comunión generalmente se realiza en nuestro programa de Nivel 2. Está dirigido a niños que han completado el Nivel 1 (generalmente corresponde a 1.er grado) y que tienen al menos 7 años de edad. Además de la asistencia del niño a las clases regulares, se espera que las familias asistan a las siguientes actividades: Reuniones de Preparación para Padres, Día de Reflexión para Padres/Candidatos de Primera Reconciliación; Día de Retiro para Padres/Candidatos de Primera Comunión. La Primera Reconciliación tendrá lugar en marzo. La Primera Comunión tendrá lugar en mayo. Costo: 1 niño—$150 2 niños—$260 3niños o mas—$340. $75.- adicional para la preparación sacramental de la Reconciliación y la Primera Comunión. Para más información comuníquese con: Tammy Korosec.Coordinadoa d E.R. tkorosec@holycrossdover.org .302.674.5787 ext 122
- **Cuadrangular de Futbol en ICC** Los Jóvenes de nuestra parroquia gemela de la Inmaculada Concepción invitan a los jóvenes a participar en un cuadrangular inter-parroquial el domingo,10 de agosto, a las 2:00 de la tarde, Habra venta de comida y mucho mas.
- **La Virgen Peregrina:** La Virgen Peregrina comenzará a visitar los hogares, si usted desea que la imagen de la virgen peregrina visite su casa por una semana, hable con nuestra hermana Marta Espinosa.
- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ**
- Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia… (P. Gerald Ftizgerald, SP)
- Únase al Apostolado de las Siete Hermanas en Holy Cross para ofrecer:Una hora santa, Por un sacerdote; Cada semana, Un corazón de oración. Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com

Educación Religiosa del ICC:

- **Las inscripciones para el año escolar 2025-2026** ya están disponibles en la oficina y en línea. Por favor de inscribir a su hijo lo antes posible. Se aceptaran aplicaciones para las clases dominicales hasta el 1 de agosto. Por favor inscriba a su hijo ahora.
- **Escuela Bíblica de Verano :** Acompáñenos a la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones: "True North", del 4 al 8 de agosto, de 6 p. m. a 8:30 p.m. todos los días. Esté atento a los anuncios de la reunión. Si le interesa ayudar este año, comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti al 410-482-8939. Si aún no se ha reunido con la Sra. Alicia para la sesión de capacitación, por favor, comuníquese con ella ahora mismo es decir YA.
- **True North:** Confiando en Jesús en un mundo salvaje. En True North, los niños descubren lo que significa confiar en Jesús en un mundo salvaje. Participan en memorables actividades de aprendizaje bíblico, cantan canciones pegadizas, juegan juegos de trabajo en equipo, preparan y devoran deliciosos bocadillos, experimentan aventuras bíblicas únicas, coleccionan Amigos de Memoria Bíblica para recordar el amor de Jesús y realizan experimentos científicos divertidos que nunca olvidarán. Además, aprenderán a buscar evidencia de Dios a su alrededor a través de las Observaciones de Dios. Cada día concluye con un Cierre de la Brújula que involucra a todos a vivir lo aprendido. Se anima a los miembros de la familia a unirse diariamente a este momento especial al cierre de las 8:15 p. m.
- **Torneo de Futbol 19-20 de julio** Se les invita al Torneo amistoso sábado 19 acomenzando a las 8:30am y domingo a las 2:30pm. Habrá venta de comida y mucho mas, traiga a toda su familia y pase un dia al aire libre después de la Santa Misa. Los esperamos

faith formation

Registration for the 2025-26 Religious Education K-8 School year is now open!

Go to Holycrossdover.org for more information and forms.
Parents, Jesus said, "let the children come to me." In God's love, bring your child to life, and accept our invitation to assist you in the faith formation of your child. Our religious education programs can communicate information and provide experiences for celebrating the sacraments, but the practice and example of your living out the faith as a family is of equal importance.

Children need to see a connection between what they learn in class and what they experience at home. Be assured that we are available to assist you in whatever way we can. We only ask in return for your active participation in the formation process by living your faith daily by good example, and by joining the parish community each Sunday for the celebration of Mass and the other sacraments. This is absolutely essential to make that connection. Please Contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122 for further information or assistance.

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If you feel you have a calling to become a catechist for either our K-8 program or our confirmation program, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122 for further information. Volunteers are required to complete a criminal background check.

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LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Is your family interested in either starting or continuing their life-long faith journey together? Would you as parents like to be active participants in the faith formation of your children? Deacon Vince Pisano has the perfect Religious Education program for you and your family!
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.

Adult Education

Adult Ed Class with Deacon Bob is taking the summer off! Stay tuned for class offerings beginning in September! If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

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Youth Ministry

Registration for preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Spring of 2026 may be found on the parish website. Copies were emailed home to parents as well. Please return to the Religious Education Office at your earliest convenience.

Peer Leaders for the 2025-2026 Confirmation Year—If you are in 10th to 12th grade, have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, and would like to help share your faith with our upcoming Confirmation class and Confirmation retreats, please let Mrs. Darling know your desire to help. Email ldarling@holycrossdover.org

Religious Education at ICC

Registrations are available at the office and online for 2025-2026 SRE year are being accepted now until August 1st. Please register now, so we can have enough teachers and plan.

Please join us for Vacation Bible School: "True North" August 4th - August 8th 6pm-8:30pm daily. Look for announcements for meeting. If you are interested in helping this year, please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939. ***Registration closes on July 27th, so we can plan appropriately.

True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World
At True North, kids discover what it means to trust Jesus in a wild world! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible Adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of Jesus' love, and test out sciency-fun experiments they'll never forget. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around themthrough something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Compass Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 8:15pm closing
Donations for VBS are greatly accepted and appreciated. Please call office at ICC for information or check website for list! https://www.iccmarydel.org/bulletin/vacation-bible-school-wish-list

Dear Parishioners,

After spending the past week out of the country with my family, I had the gift of time to pause, reflect, and be present. It reminded me of how easy it can be to get swept up in the routine of daily life. We often move quickly from one task to the next without taking the opportunity to be still and appreciate the blessings God has placed before us.
Summer is often a time when educators and school leaders shift their focus to preparation. We make plans, organize materials, and set goals for the upcoming school year. While this work is important, I encourage each of you to take a moment this summer to slow down and be present. Whether you are traveling across the country, enjoying a peaceful plane or train ride, or simply walking through your neighborhood, be grateful. Take time to notice the beauty in the world around you, to appreciate the people you are with, and to feel the love of Christ in your every-day moments.

I often find myself saying, "Once we get through this date or event, things will calm down." But the truth is, there will always be another task, another event, another busy day. These moments should not just be obstacles to overcome. Instead, they are opportunities to experience life more fully, to grow, and to recognize the presence of God working in and through us.

Spending time with my husband, parents, and siblings this past week helped me refocus on what truly matters. I was reminded how fortunate I am to have a loving and supportive family. As someone who grew up in a Catholic school, I remember the strong emphasis that was placed on the importance of family. Now, as a Catholic school principal, it is my hope to carry that same message to our students. Our faith teaches us to love, honor, and pray for our families each and every day. Family is not just a support system but is one of the greatest gifts God has given us.

While this week brought sunshine, beautiful sights, and wonderful memories, I am grateful to be back on the Holy Cross campus. Our dedicated faculty and staff are working hard to prepare for the upcoming school year, and we are excited to welcome our students back soon.
Please continue to enjoy your summer and take time to truly be in the moment. May God bless your days with peace, joy, and gratitude.

Mrs. O'Mara

children to build up his following. Predicting the end times, in 2023, he ordered his followers to starve themselves to death. They did. Over 400 bodies were found, the majority self-starved, and the remainder strangled or beaten to death. To quote G.K. Chesterton: "When people cease to believe in God, they do not then believe in nothing, but in anything."

The Difference. The cynic would assert, aside from the extremeness, how are these cults different from religion? Well, my, my, that is cynical! Using Catholicism as the example, here is why cults are destructive and Catholicism is good, and antithetical to cultish traits:

- While a cult is built upon an earthly figure — a (misleading) charismatic leader — who invokes a wholesale and absolute psychological dependency built on brainwashing and manipulation, in Catholicism, while there may be some charismatic figures, the fundamental belief structure relies on faith and dogma — not charisma. Ours is a credal faith (i.e., defined in the Nicene creed).
- While a cult is easy to enter and hard to leave, the Catholic Church — for a non-Catholic — is not easy to enter. One must undergo preparation, education, and must freely assent to receiving the Sacrament. One is free to be in the Church or not.
- While cults often seek to seize followers' wealth, the Catholic Church seeks voluntary donations to aid in its operation; there is no cost to becoming Catholic or being Catholic, other than what your generosity calls you to.
- While cults call you to slavishly follow the charismatic earthly leader or face reprisals, the Catholic Church emphasizes "free will" — and when one uses their free will badly and sins, those sins may be forgiven in confession. Additionally, the Church encourages us to discern God's will and live out our Baptismal call to holiness.
- While the leaders of a cult likely know they are scamming you, true religious leaders lead from faith.

Latest Things. So, I commend you, be wary of the "latest thing" that comes down the tracks. There are many cults out there that seek the ruin of souls. They sell themselves, especially to younger people seeking a place in the world and answers. They appear good, but they are dangerous — they seek to separate you from the world by selling you a Gnostic Plan B (gnosticism is a religion with secret beliefs, secret knowledge, and secret practices). In the Gospel of St. Matthew 7:15, Jesus cautions the faithful, you and I, *"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but underneath are ravenous wolves."*

Nothing New. The phrase "there is nothing new under the sun" might well serve as a touchstone for understanding the appealing continuity found in true religion versus the commanded novelty found in cults. As Christ says in the Gospel of St. Matthew (5:17-18):

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place."

Beware. In St. Matthew's Gospel 10:16, Jesus tells us, his faithful, that, "*Behold, I am sending you like sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and simple as doves."* We have been warned. And those wolves are, at least in part, cults and movements that seek to drag us away from a Divine institution to a human one.

The Questioners. The largest group to which cults appeal is those 18-25 years old —it is estimated that between two and five million young adults in that age group are involved in cults. The cults are particularly appealing to those seeking answers to life's questions. However, the good news is that Christianity, in general, and Catholicism, specifically, can provide answers —better and more fully realized answers —to those questions. The good news is that we have the Good News. This, likely, is why there is an uptick in the number of young Catholics — those ditching atheism, paganism, and cults and converting to Catholicism, as well as those young adults re-engaging in their faith. Many dioceses are reporting a surge in conversions, particularly among young adults, with some experiencing increases of 30% to 70% from last year to this year. So, perhaps the allure of cults is waning.

So, forget the man who claims he can make the moon disappear, and let's continue to focus ourselves and our young people on the one who created the moon, the stars, the sun, and each one of us. The one true God — no secret beliefs, no secret knowledge, and no secret practices — just the known truth revealed to us and to all — which subsists in the Catholic Church.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor