



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 23, 2023

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



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“If you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.”
Matthew 13:29

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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.



Holy Cross Summer Office Hours for Parish Office and School Office:

Monday thru Thursday : 9 am to 1 pm
Friday: Closed

Immaculate Conception Summer Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9 am to 3 pm
Wednesday and Friday: Closed



ANNUAL APPEAL

Don't forget to contribute to the Catholic Annual Appeal if you have not already done so. We have not met our goal of \$220,000 for Holy Cross. To date \$213,576 is pledged for Holy Cross, which is 97% of the goal.

Immaculate Conception's goal is \$25,000 and to date \$22,570 is pledged, which is 90% of the goal.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending July 9, 2023

| OFFERTORY TYPE | RECEIVED | BUDGETED/ NEEDED | DIFFERENCE |
|----------------|----------|------------------|------------|
| Regular | \$22,939 | \$26,276 | (\$3,437) |
| YTD | \$47,205 | \$52,752 | (\$5,547) |
| Needs | \$1,789 | \$1,172 | \$77 |

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending July 9, 2023

| OFFERTORY TYPE | RECEIVED |
|-------------------|----------|
| Regular | \$4,194 |
| Second Collection | \$677 |

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 is part two of a two-part column on the topic saints who have been ascribed as being able to levitate and fly. Last bulletin, I gave some background on a few soaring servants of the Lord, and in this bulletin I will make note of several more.

Wi-Fly? Let me reiterate, one key point from last week's column — namely the question that many faithful will ask: Why would a saint fly? Good question. The miraculous actions and deeds that are attributed, throughout history, to the Saints, are outward manifestations of God working through one of His servants. So, when a saint, for example, is said to fly, it is God at work; He is working through the saint to make known His presence and power in our world. Or more simply put: the transcendent reality of God exists outside of time and space, and when a human comes in contact with that reality, in even some small dose, that person may find themselves in a miraculous mode of being: having an ecstasy, flying, healing, etc. But no matter what the miraculous action: It is God working through that holy person.

St. Thomas Aquinas. St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), the great and pre-eminent theologian of the Catholic faith, had a famous in-air moment. The levitating moment happened in 1273 at the Dominican convent of Naples. One night, after prayer, St. Thomas Aquinas remained in the chapel, deep in prayer. He was seen by the sacristan of the chapel levitating in prayer. He was in the air, with tears streaming, as he hovered before an icon of Jesus Christ crucified. As the event was related by the Sacristan:

"Christ said to Thomas, 'You have written well of me, Thomas. What reward would you have for your labor?' Thomas responded, 'Nothing but you, Lord.' It is said that after this exchange something happened, but St. Thomas Aquinas never spoke of it or wrote it down."

St. Gerard Majella. St. Gerard (1726-1755) was a brother of the Redemptorist Order. Similar to St. Joseph of Cupertino, St. Gerard was found airborne during times of prayer, contemplation or gazing upon a sacred image. His flights and levitations were numerous and had many witnesses. Two of the most famous of these: On Good Friday, 1753, in a Benedictine Church in Corato, as a procession carrying an image of Christ crucified came into the Church, St. Gerard, who was in prayer, experienced a spiritual ecstasy. Suddenly, before the eyes of the congregation, he was elevated high up from the ground, with eyes transfixed upon the painting. Another time, he was witnessed flying for some three-quarters of mile, making his way back to the Redemptorist monastery for prayer. Another time, at the Redemptorist monastery it was time for dinner, and the head of the monastery went to call on St. Gerard to beckon him to dinner. When got to St. Gerard's room, he found the saint ravished in ecstasy and raised about three feet from the ground. Shocked, he left the room and closed the door — soaking in what he just saw. Thinking perhaps he imagined this, he went back to the room, opened the door and once again saint St. Gerard was there, three feet off the ground.

The members of the monastery were then assembled to witness this spiritual event. To preserve the memory of this air-born miracle, the head of monastery, before all of his fellow priests and brothers, marked on the wall of the room the height to which St Gerard was elevated. When the Saint broke out of his ecstasy, he realized he had onlookers — and realized that it was dinner hour. He told the onlookers: *"Please do not wait for me... I do not wish to inconvenience you."*

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. | Pastor |
| Msgr. Daniel McGlynn | Pastor Emeritus |
| Rev. Brennan Ferris | Parochial Vicar |

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 |
| 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

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER COLLECTION

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 12 & 13. More information is available at www.cathedralofstpeter.com. You can make a secure, online donation at www.cdot.org/cathedral. We thank you for your generosity

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, July 29th, tune-in to hear an interview with surfer, adventurer and author, Bear Woznick, about his new book, "12 Rules for Manliness: Where Have All the Cowboys Gone?" Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts.

17TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JULY 30)

FIRST READING: 1KINGS 3:5, 7-12

Wisdom is a gift to be sought after.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:28-30

We are chosen to be "true images" of Christ.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:44-52

Jesus' parables give a picture of the true nature of the kingdom of heaven

GOLF LEAGUE

Our Golf Tournament will be on August 30 at Jonathan's Landing Golf Course. For information about the tournament, contact Phil at 302-382-2979, Wes at 302-270-8111, or Greg at 302-883-4000.

RETROUVAILLE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming programs will be held August 18 - 20 and again October 6 - 8, 2023 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.

ANNUAL APPEAL

The Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal has raised to date \$5,113,204.11, and to date, we have collected \$3,847,862.04.

In this economic climate, there is an increase in the number of services requested from our programs and ministries. We can only continue to meet the increased needs of our people through the generous support of the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. It is only through the generosity of our parishioners that our ministries will be able to fulfill this increased demand and provide for so many! Together, we work toward Shining the Light of Christ. If you have already donated to the appeal, Thank you! If you have yet to make a gift, please prayerfully consider a generous donation and help our parish achieve our goal.

Did you know? The Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal supports our High Schools, the Catholic Schools Office, and all of the education and formation ministries throughout the diocese. Together we accompany our young people, form them in our faith, and provide opportunities for them to receive, and shine the light of Christ. Your generosity impacts the young church of today, and carries our faith and church into the future!

MASS INTENTIONS JULY

24 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am LI Rachael Neely

25 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Paul Rose

26 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Theresa A. Dupuis

27 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Jim Clougherty
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

28 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Julia Vogl

29 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Marco Ferritto
HC 5:00 pm Jerome Ballo

30 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am DM Clendaniel Family
ICC 8:30 am Wayne Miller
HC 9:30 am Fraderick Bulinski
ICC 11:00 am Dave Schepens
HC 11:30 am Connie Bichanich
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

Please consider your participation as we strive to collect our Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal goal. Of our 3,811 households at Holy Cross parish, 509 have participated in the campaign to date. Our parish participation rate is 14%. Of our 275 households at Immaculate Conception, 59 families have participated in the campaign to date. Our parish participation rate is 22%.

Every gift is valued and appreciated. Please consider participating, so we can increase our parish participation and meet our goal.

JULY 29/30, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

C. Bugglin M. Sirolli
M. Casey N. Sirolli

S. Murawski
B. Richarson
L. Richardson

LECTORS

J. Davis
D. Kilby

7:30 AM

L. Bradford A. Fischer
J. Davis J. Fischer

L. Boggs
E. Bydlon
S. Shevock

LECTORS

A. Wyllie

9:30 AM

G. Wessel B. Whitworth
M Wessel R. Willey

W. Shuron
B. Song
D. Song

LECTORS

J. Coffield
S. Crossen

11:30 AM

C. Garcia A. Luna
B. Guzman

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

K. Durham

8:30 AM

LECTORS

J. Tormey, Jr.

J. Carrow

11:00 AM

LECTORS

S. Tucker

1:00 PM

TBD

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

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 the Parish Office at 674-5787 to reserve a time for you.



SUNDAY

7 am, 4 pm, 5pm, 8 pm

MONDAY

5 pm

TUESDAY

5 am, 6 am, 5 pm

WEDNESDAY

7 am

FRIDAY

6 am

SATURDAY

5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest member who was recently baptized at Holy Cross:

- Liam Cristian Manriquez
- Mia Bella Porreca
- Issac Asher Saint

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of the following who have recently deceased:

- Paul Janiga
- Bruce A. Laberde

SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY

Our Samaritans food pantry can always use donations to keep our shelves stocked with food for the needy in our community. When shopping please consider donating a few containers of the following foods:

Peanut Butter and Jelly; Canned Ravioli / Chili / Beef Stew; Canned Vegetables / Soups / Chunky Soups; Spaghetti / Spaghetti Sauce Macaroni and Cheese; Tuna/Hamburger, & Tuna/Hamburger Helper; Ramen Noodles Dried Black Beans / White Rice and Massa

Please drop the food in the Pantry Food Drop Box in the building behind the Rectory.

We have a new green sign near the drop box door.

- Trabajo Comunitario en Nuestra Parroquia. Cada año nuestra comunidad hispana tiene un día de trabajo comunitario en nuestra parroquia. El sábado, 19 de agosto, tendremos un día de Limpieza general en los predios de nuestra parroquia, Se podaran los árboles y arbustos, se pondrá Mulch alrededor de toda a propiedad. Se limpiará dentro y fuera del templo. Necesitamos voluntarios que se anoten y traigan sus herramientas de trabajo. Si quiere ayudar anótese con el presidente de nuestra Junta Directiva el Sr .José Cruz Pérez y su esposa Mireya Rodríguez.
- Entrenamiento para monaguillos. El domingo, 20 de agosto, después de la misa habrá un entrenamiento para monaguillos los que ya son y están sirviendo y los nuevos que desean servir como monaguillos. Si usted desea que su hijo o hija y si ellos desean servir como monaguillo beberán asistir al entrenamiento con el padre Ferris. Recuerda que es un privilegio pero también es un compromiso que con lleva una responsabilidad de servir en cualquier ministerio de la iglesia. Si usted está interesada por favor anotarse con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- **Conquistando las Naciones para Cristo** les invita a su retiro de Sanación Interior del 28-30 de Julio del 2023. Para hombres y mujeres mayores de 18 años. Inscríbese pronto. Lugar del Retiro parroquia de los Santos Ángeles, Newark, Delaware. Donación: \$125 por persona. Para más información hable con Epitasio Méndez, Martha Espinosa, José Cruz Pérez.
- La Virgen Peregrina esta visitado casas. Si desea que la imagen de la virgen visite su hogar por una semana por favor de anotarse con la Sra. Martha Espinosa.
- **Educación Religiosa:** Inscriba a su niño para la Educación Religiosa que ya están abiertas. Si su hijo(a) no está asistiendo a una escuela católica debe de inscribirse en Las aplicaciones están en línea estarán llenando inscripciones después de la misa.

ICC

- **Educación Religiosa:** Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa para el año escolar 2023-2024 ya están abiertas. Inscriba a sus hijos ahora, para que podamos planificar en consecuencia. Las tarifas son de \$50 por 1 niño, \$100 por 2 niños, \$150 por 3 niños y \$180 por más de 4 niños. Después del 1 de julio habrá una tarifa adicional de \$10 por niño. Las clases comienzan el domingo 24 de septiembre de 2023.
- **Se necesitan voluntarios.** Si usted o alguien que conoce está interesado en ser voluntario, ser un líder de pares para la Educación Religiosa o la Preparación para la Confirmación, comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti @ dre@iccmaryl.org o 410-482-8939.
- **Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones:** ¡La EBV “Estelar” es para niños de 4 a 16 años! Por favor inscriba a sus hijos para asistir. 31 de julio al 4 de agosto, de 6 a 8:30 p. m. en el Salón Parroquial. Todavía se necesitan voluntarios. Póngase en contacto con Alicia Poppiti si está interesado en ayudar.
- La Inmaculada Concepción Invita a los niños a la **EBV Estelar:** ¡Brilla la Luz de Jesús! Un evento de verano para niños llamado Stellar VBS donde los niños descubren cómo pueden hacer brillar el amor y la esperanza de Jesús en la vida cotidiana! Los niños participan en memorables actividades de aprendizaje de la Biblia, cantan canciones pegadizas, juegan juegos de trabajo en equipo, preparan y devoran deliciosos dulces. Cada día concluye con un Cierre Cósmico que involucra a todos en vivir lo aprendido. Se alienta a los familiares y amigos a unirse diariamente a este momento especial a las 8:15 p. m. para el Cierre Cósmico. Stellar y funcionará de 6:00 p. m. a 8:30 p. m. todos los días. Para obtener más información, llame a Alicia Poppiti al 410-482-8939. Los niños deben estar inscritos para asistir.
- **SE NECESITAN DONACIONES PARA VBS:** Aguas botellas de 6oz, 8oz, 0 16oz, o galones snacks, en bolsas pequeñas

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Have a child or children in grades K-8 who need faith formation? Please go to the following link to register for religious education classes. <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation> If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis) LAFF, Living as a Family of Faith. How is your Faith growing; personally, and as a family? I was once told, “show me a Bible that has not been opened and I’ll show you a family falling apart; show me a Bible falling apart, and I’ll show you a family living in Faith.” Put down the electronics and pick up the Bible and pray together as a family and learn to communicate with God and each other. Learn more about our Faith and the Catholic Church. Understand what “The Source and Summit” of our Catholic Faith is all about. Families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences. Bring your communications equipment with you: Basic Information Before Leaving Earth. BIBLE!

Interested in enrolling your family in the LAFF program for the 2023-24 school year? Please go to the following link to register for the LAFF program using the religious education form. <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Reminder - please return your Confirmation Preparation registration if your child will be preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation next spring.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Registration for Religious Education for the 2023-2024 school year are now open.

Please get your children registered now, so that we may plan accordingly. Fees are \$50 for 1 child, \$100 for 2 children, \$150 for 3 children and \$180 for more than 4 children. After July 1st there will be an additional \$10 fee.

Volunteers needed! If you or someone you

know is interested in volunteering, being a peer leader for Religious Education or Confirmation Preparation team member, please contact Alicia Poppiti @ dre@iccmarylodel.org or 410-482-8939.

Classes begin on Sunday, September 24th, 2023 and run thru May 3rd, 2024.

Vacation Bible School: “Stellar” VBS will be here before you know it! Please register your children to attend. **July 31-August 4th, 6-8:30pm** in the Parish Hall. Contact Alicia Poppiti if interested in assisting. **Volunteers still needed.**

Immaculate Conception Invites Children to Stellar VBS: Shine Jesus’ Light!

A summer kids’ event called Stellar VBS will be hosted at **Immaculate Conception** from Monday, **July 31st to Friday, August 4th**. At Stellar, kids discover how they can shine Jesus’ love and hope in everyday life! 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’ light, and test out Sciency-Fun Gizmos they’ll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Cosmic Closing that gets everyone involved in living what they’ve learned. Family members and friends are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at **8:15pm for Cosmic Closing**. **Stellar** is for kids from 4 to 16 and will run **from 6pm to 8:30pm** each evening. For more information, call **Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939**.

Children must be registered before JULY 31st to attend. No registrations at opening!

Donations needed for ICC VBS: contact office or bring to office during office hours. Thank you

Water-6oz, 8oz,16oz.,gallon jugs, empty peanut butter and mayonnaise jars with lids, pringles cans with lids, cotton balls, glue dots, napkins, spoons, small snack plates, snack puddings, tang, cheeseballs, snack size moon pies, cosmic brownies, star crunches, pretzel rings, snack apple slices, halo oranges, mini granola bars, granola bars, pretzel balls, star cereal, mini marshmallows

PLACES TO GO AND PEOPLE TO SEE

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| S | A | H | R | R | I | M | S | I | I | O | O | L | P | O | S | N | U | M | R | I |
| S | T | E | T | Z | O | E | T | S | O | C | L | U | A | P | P | S | E | A | E | L |
| A | R | F | O | G | L | A | H | C | X | K | F | L | R | H | R | O | S | Y | A | L |
| W | Y | O | D | O | S | O | C | U | R | S | T | O | T | V | A | E | S | O | L | I |
| I | N | I | T | N | E | L | R | E | H | T | A | F | Y | D | R | E | W | D | T | W |

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|-----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| BUSCH GARDENS | MASS | FRIENDS | BARBIE |
| MICKEY MOUSE | BIRTHDAY PARTY | SWIMMING | BLUE ROCKS |
| PHILLIES | GRANDPARENTS | AMISH COUNTRY | WILLIAMSBURG |
| WASHINGTON D.C. | GREAT WOLF | FISHING | CAMP |
| HERSHEY PARK | DISNEY | REHOBETH | OUTLETS |
| BIG BIRD | FATHER FERRIS | SHOPPING | FATHER LENTINI |
| SMITHSONIAN | BAHAMAS | MOVIES | BIGGS MUSEUM |

St. Gemma Galgani. In the late 19th century, St. Gemma (1878-1903) paused during housework to pray before an image of Jesus on a large crucifix in her family home. At that moment the image of Christ came alive and beckoned the young Gemma to come to Him. At that moment – with her family looking on – Gemma was suddenly and joyfully levitated off the ground, rose up to the crucifix, embraced it and kissed the wood of the Cross. A few years later, in 1903, at the age of 25 she passed away; Gemma Galgani was canonized a saint in 1940.

St. Christina the Astonishing. St. Christina (1150-1224) had suffered from seizures during her life. After one major seizure, at age 21, it seemed she died. During her funeral Mass, Astonishing everyone (hence her name), Christina sprung from her casket and flew up to the rafters of the Church. She told the Priest, after coming down to the ground, that she returned to earth to pray for the suffering souls in Purgatory. Christina levitated other times, but more often sought prayer silence by hiding away from people; she often climbed up in trees or hid in ovens. She died in 1224 at the age of 74.

St. Paul of the Cross. The founder of the Passionist Order, St. Paul of the Cross (1694-1775), experienced several instances of levitation and flight. The most famous was in the sacristy (preparation room for Mass) of Ss. John and Paul Church in Rome. There, he was absorbed in holy conversation with a number of people when, as one witness testified: “

He began, according to his custom, to have his countenance lighted up, brilliant rays flashing from his face; then his whole body began to tremble; then, as I believe, he perceived that he was losing the control of his senses, he clung with both his hands to the arms of the chair, and leaned his shoulders on the back of it; as soon as he had done this, he began to rise, together with the chair, and that to such a height, that I think he must have risen at least to the height of five or six feet...in this state he continued a very long time in most sublime contemplation. Finally he returned to himself, and, as the rapture passed away, a slight tremor took place all over his body, and gradually the servant of God, with the chair, descended and rested on the ground.”

There while engaged in conversation of spiritual matters, his face lit up, his body trembled, and *“he clung with both his hands to the arms of the chair, and leaned his shoulders on the back of it; as soon as he had done this, he began to rise, together with the chair... to the height of five or six feet... [Later] as the rapture passed away... [He] with the chair, descended and rested on the ground.”*

Gonna Fly Now! These Saints that I have noted – along with many others – bore witness to God’s power with the gift of flight. These events of levitation and flight show us that in ecstatic prayer or contemplation, God can lift us up; most of the time this is done spiritually. But, in the lives of these Saints, God pulled back the curtain that separates the natural and the supernatural realms to show us both spirit and body lifted up from the earth. Do you believe a man can fly? I sure do, and our Church tradition gives us these holy examples.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor