



CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmmarydel.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

July 24, 2022

17th 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-Saturday, 8 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

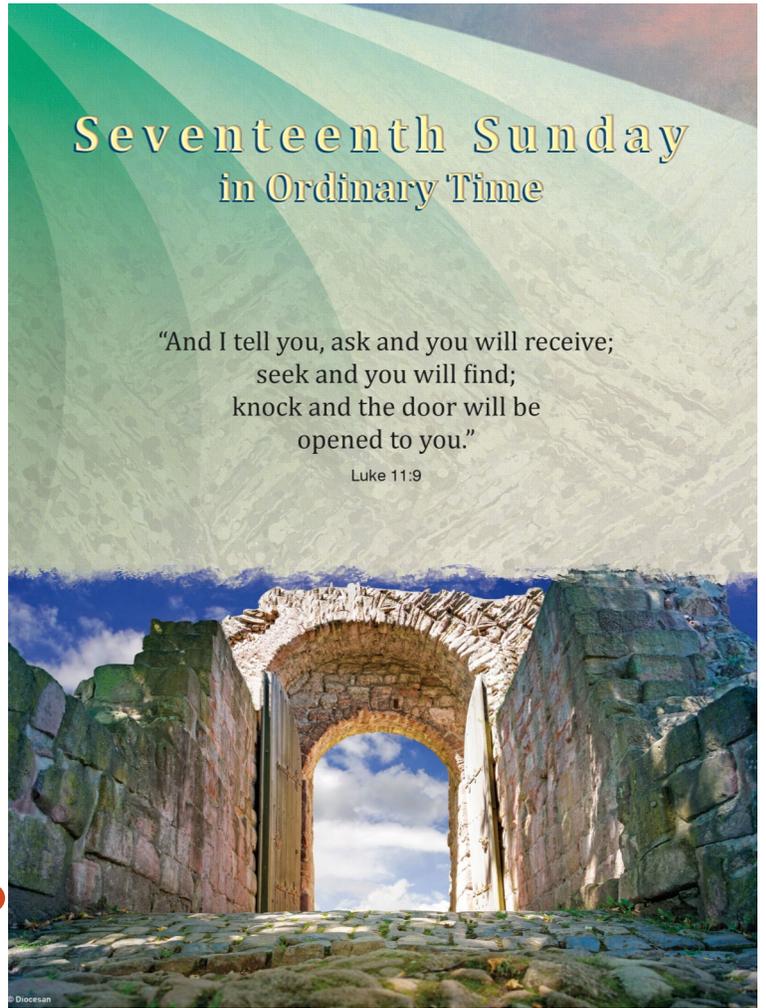
CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be
opened to you.”

Luke 11:9



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.

MEN OF THE HOLY CROSS

Thanks to our newest innovation (a state of the art "Meeting Owl" which makes you feel like you are there in person), all you need is your smartphone, tablet or computer to join our meetings. Just type in on a web browser the below link or click on the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting set up and join our (Hybrid in person or via zoom) (We also meet in person 2nd floor of the ELC building) meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/83606382292> pass code 631 Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM (time certain) . We are currently viewing episodes from Knights of Columbus " titled "Into the Breach".

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, July 30, learn how to shield the children in your life from online perils, when Chris McKenna, founder of "Protect Young Lives," is interviewed. 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

July 10, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$25,808	\$26,500	(\$692)
YTD	\$49,388	\$53,000	(\$3,612)
Needs	\$1,802	\$1,604	\$198

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending July 10, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,376
Second Collection	\$646

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,

As is my long-time practice, in terms of vacation, I spend about a week or more each summer traveling to watch minor league baseball in Pennsylvania and Ohio. I spend my summer vacation every year in this way. Thus, I get to see teams with names like the Altoona Curve, the Erie Seawolves, the Mahoning Valley Scrappers, the Williamsport Crosscutters, the State College Spikes, the Akron Rubber Ducks, and the Washington Wild Things (and many others). I must confess, I love watching minor league baseball far more than major league baseball, as the players on these teams are more concerned with play than with pay. It is a purer form of the game.

Romancing the Tone. There is a certain American romanticism with baseball, and certainly I fall into having that outlook, and understanding that romanticized tone. Movies like “The Natural,” “Eight Men Out,” “Field of Dreams,” “Pride of the Yankees,” “For Love of the Game” and so many others catch that great spirit of the game. For me, it is a love of the game itself — rather than of this player or that player, or this team or that team — that I connect with. The way some folks look at ballet, finely crafted art, or an amazing sunset is the way I look at baseball.

On the Battlefield. I like to lay the claim (which fans of basketball, football, hockey and soccer do not like) that baseball is the last true sport. That is, if “sports” is a reflection of a battle between two competing sides, then baseball is the truest and most authentic representation of that battle. What do I mean by that? Well, in sports like basketball and hockey, they have time limits — a clock runs and that battle ends when time runs out — and whoever is ahead wins. In other sports, like tennis, when a certain point score is achieved the game is over. But real battles don’t have clocks or set point-scores for victory. No! Battles are fought to the very end -- to a conclusion.

On the Baseball Field. As it is on battlefields, so it is on baseball fields: With baseball the game isn’t over until one side wins and the competition gets that last at-bat. To quote the great Yogi Berra, of happy memory, “The game isn’t over, ’til it’s over.” With this in mind, I want to make four connections between our Catholic faith and baseball:

1. **Play your best to the very end.** In baseball, as in our Catholic faith life, we don’t know when the game will end — it could be rained out in the sixth inning, end in the ninth inning or go into extra innings. And since we don’t know how long or short the game will be, and since we don’t know where life will end for us,

we always have to play our best right up to the last inning, right up to the last swing of the bat. We are called to be faithful to the end.

2. **Hope for a comeback.** In our faith and life, as in baseball, we may play badly, commit errors, strike out and hit fouls — and so on. But no matter the problems, no matter how bad the scoreboard may look, there is always the hope for a rally — for that moment of redemption. It might come in the first, fourth or ninth inning of our lives. But no matter the situation, for us there is always hope up to very end that we can make a comeback and God is our biggest fan cheering us on to the last breath.

3. **Team effort and Individual effort.** In many sports, like soccer or hockey, the game is very much strictly a team effort. In golf or tennis, it is very much an individual effort. But, baseball is different — it is like our faith life. You see, in baseball the work of the team is just as important as the work of the batter at the plate: both have key roles. The success of the individual brings the team success and a well-oiled team helps the individual player play his best. So, too, in our understanding of salvation: Christ will come to judge us and our lives, both individually (how well did we play the game, how well did we serve God) and collectively (how did we help the team to play better — how did we make the world a little better). And so, in salvation as in baseball, the team as a whole and the players individually all get judged.

4. **Helping Others.** In baseball, the batter starts at home plate and his aim is to get around those bases and finish where he started — at home. A home run could do that, but truth be told, the best play in baseball is not a home run. Nope. The best play in baseball is a Grand Slam... why? Because with a Grand Slam the batter not only makes his way all the way around the bases and back to home, but he allows others to make that same trek. He helps not only his own standings but also those of the others. In our Catholic faith, this is our call: Not just home runs for ourselves, but Grand Slams in which we not only find our way to God, but in which we bring others along with us... not heaven just for us, but as many as we can help to get there!

That Last Swing. All of this is why I say that baseball is a representative analogy of our Catho-

(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
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HC STAFF

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

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

RC I A ...

When Jesus was approached by those who wished to become disciples, he invited them to "...come and see," that is to come and be with me and my disciples for a while. Walk with us – learn who we are. Then make your decision to become a disciple.

Pope St. John Paul II said, "It is not enough to discover Christ – you must bring him to others!" The words of our Holy Father should encourage us to reach out to a neighbor, friend, relative and co-worker. If they do not have a church home, invite them to consider Holy Cross.

We are already making contact and responding to those who are interested in journeying with us to discover more about the Catholic Christian experience. Even if you have asked someone before they have passed up the opportunity, today may be the time that the Holy Spirit has chosen for them. Invite them to discover at no obligation what the Catholic Church is really all about. For more information, contact the Parish Office, 674-5787 extension 110 or 113.

SVDP MEETING AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. Vincent de Paul meeting the 2nd Mon. of the month at 5 pm, in the office meeting room.

Next meeting is Monday, September 12, 2022, at 5 pm.

SAMARITANS

Last Fiscal Year, the Samaritan Food Pantry provided food to 1,009 families (2208 Adults and 3576 Children) .

We are asking for the following foods to continue providing balanced meals to families needing assistance:

(small packs of ground beef, tray pack or whole chicken, small beef or pork roasts)

We have a freezer and drop box inside the left door in the building behind the Rectory.

(unlocked 6 AM to 6 PM)

Thank you for your donations.

18TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JULY 31)

FIRST READING: ECCLESIASTES 12:2; 2:21-23

The Preacher reflects on the vanity of human endeavor.

SECOND READING : COLOSSIANS 3:1-5, 9-11

Paul tells the Colossian Christians to let their thoughts be on heavenly things.

GOSPEL: LUKE 12:13-21

Jesus warns us to be on our guard against avarice of any kind.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our prayers shawl ministry continues to meet each Tuesday morning from 10 am to 12 noon in the St. Luke Room on the second floor of the Early Learning Center Building. Newcomers are welcome. If you know someone who could use a prayer shawl or if you would like one yourself, please call the parish office and we can pass along the message to the group.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

What worries and burdens are you carrying today? (Money? Children? Health? Job?) Let your beloved (your spouse and God) be a comfort to you. Be present to who is most important to you today.

PARENTING POINTERS

Take a moment this weekend to remember why you so wanted a child. Cherish each of your children in thought and words today

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. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming weekend programs will be held August 19 - 21 and October 14 - 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. To register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for an in-person or virtual experience getting closer to your spouse? Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! Many options for virtual events can be found on our website www.wwme-delmar.org. For additional information please call Tony and Linda Masino at 302-648-2228.

MASS INTENTIONS JULY

25 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Esther LaSana
26 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Richard Newsome
27 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Mary Irene Rowell-Johnson
28 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Phillip C. Hashem, III
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
29 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Nate Hanley
30 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	John P. McGlynn
HC 5 pm	John Randazzo
31 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	James and Mary Schultz
ICC 8:30 am	Carmen Campanicki
HC 9:30 am	Tim Staniszewski
ICC 11 am	Peggy Poppiti
HC 1:00 pm	Lucia Delgado
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

BUSINESS MANAGER

St. Polycarp Church in Smyrna, DE is seeking a full time Business Manager. Interested candidates should have Business Management, Accounting and Bookkeeping experience with the appropriate educational credentials. Facilities management, or a willingness to learn, is also a necessary component of the position. Above all, the person must be willing to work collaboratively with our team of Professional ministries to build God's Kingdom.

Inquiries should be sent to office@saintpolycarp.org

HOLY CROSS JULY 30/31, 2022

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM M. Caccese S. Coghlan A. Torbert
J. Clendaniel P. Gerard B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

D. Dixon
F. Urick

7:30 AM J. Davis S. Gede A. Costa
R. Fritzche R. O'Neill E. Costa
M. Costa

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM K. Canfield B. Whitworth J. Beugre
C. Jones R. Wiley C. Beugre
R. Willemin

LECTORS

S. Crossen
C. Parks

11:30 AM TBD K. Espinosa
C. Geronimo

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM Elisa Costello

LECTORS

G. Goldfrey

11:00 AM L. Schlaupitz

LECTORS

D. King

1:00 PM To be determined

LECTORS

TBD

JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

It's a question every Catholic man needs to ask - and answer. God calls you to lead with faith in all you do. The Knights of Columbus is here to help. We offer the Catholic faith formation, financial protection, and family resources that can help you grow as a father, husband, and leader. With the Knights, you can become the man you want to be - and your family needs. Learn more at KofC.org and find out how you can make a difference and enjoy the benefits of becoming a Knight. Lead, they'll follow.

NEWEST MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest registered members at Holy Cross:

- Jacqueline and Breanna Pierce and John Foxall
- Leonard Latrella and Barbara Johnson
- Reuben, Alexandra and Miles Awomokorie
- Gerard, Sunit, Kasey, Brittney and Bridget Obale

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY	6 am, 10 am, 5 pm, 8 pm
TUESDAY	6 am, 3 pm
WEDNESDAY	11 am
THURSDAY	12 pm
SATURDAY	12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

SWITCH TO EGIVING THIS SUMMER (HC)

Online donations through Faith Direct help sustain our parish ministries and keep our offertory consistent during the busy summer vacation months. If you make the switch today, you'll be giving steady, consistent support to the parish ministries you care about most in the months ahead - even if you're out of town during summer weekends.

ICC- EDUCATION RELIGIOSA

- Es muy importante inscribir a sus hijos a tiempo para la Educación Religiosa. Las Inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa y Preparación para la Confirmación (HC - 2023) Las aplicaciones para inscribirse para la Preparación para la Confirmación 2023 se pueden encontrar en el sitio web de la parroquia en holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christianformation/k-8-formation.
- Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, no dude en comunicarse con Tammy Korosec en tkorosec@holycrossover.org o llame al (302) 674-5787 X 122
- Los Obispos de los Estados Unidos están llamando a un avivamiento de tres años de la devoción y la creencia en la Presencia Real de Jesús en la Eucaristía. Crean que Dios quiere ver un movimiento de católicos en todo Estados Unidos, curados, convertidos, formados y unificados por un encuentro con Jesús en la Eucaristía, y enviados en misión “para la vida del mundo”. Estos tres años culminarán con el primer Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Estados Unidos en casi cincuenta años. Casi cien mil católicos se reunirán en Indianápolis en una peregrinación única hacia la “fuente y cumbre” de nuestra fe católica. Que culminara con un Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Indianápolis, Indiana del 17-21 de julio del 2024.
- Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre - bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118
- La virgen peregrina está visitando casas, si usted desea tener la virgen en su casa por una semana por favor hable con la Sra. Marta Espinosa.
- ICC- Un agradecimiento muy especial a todos los que trabajaron incansablemente en el evento del fin de semana del Torneo de Fútbol. Fue un evento para la recaudación de fondos para nuestra parroquia y fue todo un éxito. Gracias a la iniciativa de la Junta Directiva, el comité de cocina, los vendedores, jugadores y patrocinadores. Gracias y que el Señor los bendiga y les de la fuerza para poder trabajar para el bienestar de Su Reino y Su iglesia.
- La inscripción para el año escolar 2022-2023 está abierta, las inscripciones están disponibles para todas las familias y aún se aceptan. Debe inscribir a sus hijos cada año. Vuelva a Alicia Poppiti ahora, para que podamos estar seguros de tener suficientes maestros, libros y espacio en las aulas.
- Necesitamos Catequistas, Asistentes, sustitutos y ayudantes para el próximo año para la Educación Religiosa los domingos por la mañana, desde el 18 de septiembre hasta el 7 de mayo, de 9:40 a 10:50 a.m. Póngase en contacto con Alicia Poppiti @ 410-482-8939 o dre@iccmaryl.org para obtener más información.
- Las inscripciones ya están disponibles.
- Nuevos Inscribiéndose: tinyurl.com/2p978jem
- Retornando Inscribiéndose: https://www.iccmaryl.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/sre_registration_form_2021.pdf
- Forma A en Ingles: https://www.iccmaryl.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/form_a_-_new.pdf
- Forma A en Español https://www.iccmaryl.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/form_a-spanish1_.pdf
- La Escuela Bíblica de Verano en La Inmaculada Concepción es del 1 al 5 de agosto, de 6 a 8:30 p. m. en el Salón. Los niños deben estar inscritos para asistir. Más información sobre la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones en las próximas semanas. Los niños deben estar registrados para asistir. ¡Se necesitan voluntarios para ser miembros del equipo para la VBS de Food Truck Party! Si estas interesado inscribase con Alicia Poppiti dre@iccmaryl.org o llame al 410-482-8939.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education?

Registration forms available at <https://holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

If you have any questions contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith) Catechesis
Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF?

Registration forms available at <https://holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

If you have any questions please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossover.org or call (302) 674-5787

ADULT FORMATION

In English:
Father Mike Schmitz
tinyurl.com/yknnjyc7



In Spanish:
Fray Sergio Serrano
tinyurl.com/3dfwydt7



CONFIRMATION AT HOLY CROSS

REMINDER - Registration for Confirmation Preparation may be found on the Parish Website under Teaching the Faith. Any teen entering 9th Grade to 12th Grade is invited to join us for Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation in the spring.

Parent Meeting - for teens beginning Confirmation Preparation Sunday, August 28 at 5 pm OR Monday, August 29 at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. Please mark your calendar.

High School Peer Leaders -

Training for next year teens who would like to join the peer leader group will be held on Thursday evening, August 18 at 7 pm.

Reminder - deadline to let Mrs. Darling know you would like to be a peer was July 1! Please email her to let her know your plan to participate this year.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Religious Education registration for the 2022-2023 school year are available to all families registered in the parish, and are stilling being accepted.

Religious Education classes run Sunday mornings from September 25th thru May 7th, 9:40am-10:50am.

Please return to Alicia Poppiti at the ICC Religious Education office. You can also download and print from our website at:

New Registrants https://www.iccmmarydel.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/new_sre_registration_form_2021.pdf

Renewal Registrants https://www.iccmmarydel.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/sre_registration_form_2021.pdf

Form A in English: https://www.iccmmarydel.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/form_a_-_new.pdf

Form A in Spanish; https://www.iccmmarydel.org/uploads/6/9/0/4/69049539/form_a_-_spanish__1_.pdf

Your Assistance is requested for our School Year Religious Education: Wanted, to share faith and knowledge, as we are in need of Catechists, Assistants, substitutes and helpers for next year for Religious Education on Sunday mornings, from September 25th until May 7th, 9:40-10:50am. Contact Alicia Poppiti @410-482-8939 or dre@iccmmarydel.org for more information. We offer wonderful and faith filled formation days for you as well.

VBS AT ICC

Only 1 week away!!! VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL: Registrations are now available, and need to be returned by July 25th.

Vacation Bible School at Immaculate Conception is from August 1-5 6-8:30pm in the Hall.

Registrations are available to print or fill out online: <https://www.iccmmarydel.org/vbs.html>
Team Members Needed for Food Truck Party VBS, please join us on our way to Food Truck Party VBS!

Volunteers can register with Alicia Poppiti at dre@iccmmarydel.org or 410-482-8939, to sign up for opportunities to serve, lead, and most of all, HAVE FUN at Food Truck Party! Join us as we get On a Roll with God!



Yes, it's summertime, alright, but we continue to conduct daily school business. We are always grateful for a little activity over and above the norm and it sure is nice when a familiar face appears on the other side of the glass door. I thought it might be nice to pass on a little update on what's been happening over the past several weeks---it's a little scary how quickly the month of July gets away from us because there's no wiggle room in August! It was a pleasure to work with my group from the **Catholic Heart Work Camp**. Catholic Heart Work Camp offers unforgettable mission trips for teens providing opportunities for parish youth groups to restore homes, feed the hungry, lift the spirits of children, bring joy to the elderly and disabled, and offer assistance to social agencies. I have had the privilege to work with faithful young people for the past several summers and I have never encountered any one person affiliated with the group that failed to represent the heart and love of Christ in their actions, work ethic and relationships. This year my group was informed ahead of time that their task was to paint. On Monday morning I met Miss Tracy and the three teens armed with rollers, buckets, drop cloths and all the accoutrement necessary for the job. The job was not an easy one. They were asked to scrape off all the old badly chipped paint from the banisters leading to the second floor in both the elementary and junior high buildings. After the arduous scraping, the painting could begin. At the end of the week, the banisters had taken on the look of a professional paint job. I could not have been more pleased. The downstairs hallway doors were tossed in to boot! Beautiful work! It is always a delight to work with the young people who come prepared to help others. No questions, and no grumbles. It's not all work and no play, though. There is daily Mass, Reconciliation, evenings filled with praise and worship, recreation, and awesome opportunities for plenty of Christian fellowship. On Friday the entire group visited Six Flags for a day of carefree fun, and on Saturday they were bound for Washington DC before heading back home to Memphis TE. It's an experience they won't soon forget. And, most participants are repeat performers.

As my fingertips brush lightly over this keyboard, our own parish CHWC group is preparing to head south to North Carolina for a week of mission service. Our group is led by Mrs. Linda Darling, the HC Parish Youth Minister. She is a lady truly committed to this work, and my prayers go with her, our adult leaders, and our group of teens.

Yesterday HC Religion Committee members came together for our annual summer planning meeting. It's always so nice to see everyone and I am forever grateful for Mrs. White and her staunch attention to every detail in planning for our meeting. This year our meeting focused primarily on our new diocesan theme and the joy in scheduling events through the year "like we used to." We are so hopeful, yet harboring a small measure of caution, that this year we can do all things without restriction. Weekly Mass attendance being one of those most anticipated "return to normalcy" events.

Our new diocesan wide theme for the year is **One Body in Christ**. Highlighted throughout the year will be the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching. Living through those principles we encounter the Eucharistic Lord and make him known to others. (Doesn't that sound like the primary mission of the CHWC?) Our new prayer for the year is the **Act of Love**. It will be prayed each morning as we begin the new day with prayer, daily scripture, a recitation of our school mission, and the Pledge of Allegiance. I offer the beautiful words of the prayer with the suggestion that you allow your child to lead your family in the recitation, or that you might remember to pray the words in solidarity with the school children sometime throughout your busy day.

[The Act of Love](#)

O my God,
I love you above all things
With my whole heart and soul,
because You are all good and worthy of all love.
I love my neighbor as myself for love of You.
I forgive all who have injured me,
And I ask pardon for whom I have injured.
Amen.

lic faith on the playing field of life. Yes, sometimes we have to sacrifice for others; yes, sometimes we strike out, and yes, sometimes, sometimes (unlike our Phillies in this so-so season) we hit the ball just right... but no matter, the game for us is not over until that last pitch, and that last swing, in that last inning. Even when the Phillies lost 13-1 (ugh!) to the Diamondbacks earlier this month, there was that hope until the very end – until that last pitch, and that last swing, in that last inning.

Christ vs. The Devil. And to be sure: Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Savior, is our All-Star player -- and with the wood of the Cross he hit a grand slam for us; he took to a 10-0 game on Good Friday and turned it into a big win, remaining faithful to the end. And that big win is called Easter – Christ beats out the Devil. But beware that the Devil is always looking for that next game.

Music Maestro, Please. To finish on this baseball/faith theme, let me leave you with the lyrics of a song by the R&B *a cappella* group, The Persuasions. This song, from 1996, is called “Life is a Ballgame” (ironically, it wasn’t a hit). The song connects faith and baseball in a wonderfully spiritual analogy! Here’s how it goes:

Life is a ballgame, being played each day

Life is a ballgame, everybody can play

Y’know, Jesus is standin’ at home plate, He’s waiting for you there!

Life is a ballgame, but you’ve got to play it fair.

First base is temptation, the second base is sin,

Third base is tribulation: if you pass you can make it in

Ol’ man Solomon is the umpire, and y’know Satan’s pitchin’ the game

He’ll do his best to strike you out, but keep playin’ just the same.

Daniel was the first to bat, you know he prayed three times a day

When Satan threw him a fastball, you know he hit it anyway

Job came in the next inning, Satan struck him in every way,

But Job he hit a home run, and came on in that day.

Prayer will be your strong bat, to hit at Satan’s ball

And when you start to swing it, you’ve got to give it your all in all

Faith will be your catcher, on him you can depend

And Jesus is standing at Home Plate, he’s waitin’ for you to come in.

Moses is standin’ on the side line, just waitin’ to be called

And the day he parted the Red Sea, he gave Christ his all-in-all

John came in the last inning, when the game was almost done

Then God gave John a vision -- and he knew he’d all ready won!

And in regard to baseball being likened to our faith, I commend you on in this midst of this baseball season, and throughout your life: Play ball!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor