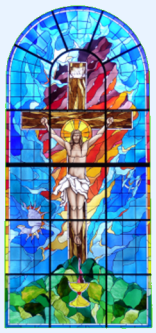


# Church of the Holy Cross

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org

# Immaculate Conception

**July 27, 2025** — **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, 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

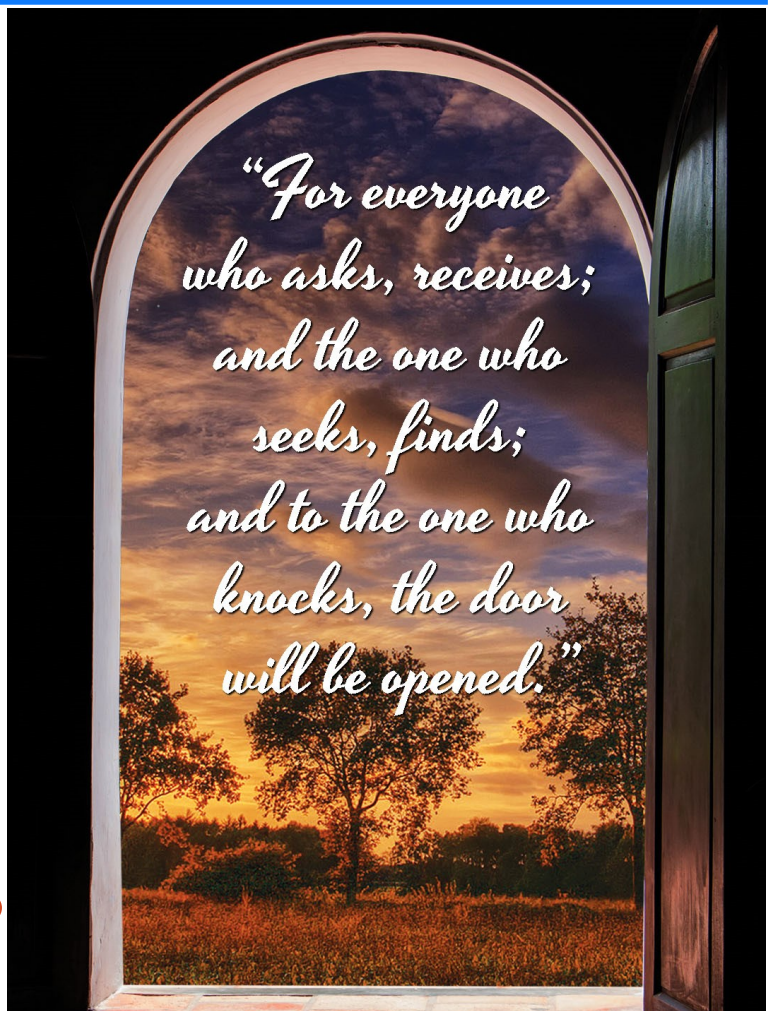
### Adoration Chapel Hours
Daily, 5 am—9 pm

## 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




### 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

## 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.

## Adult Education Opportunities

**Catechism in a Year:**
https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechismsinayear

**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 13, 2025

| Offertory Type | Received | Budgeted/ Needed | Difference |
|---|---|---|---|
| Regular | $24,694 | $26,150 | ($1,456) |
| YTD | $54,088 | $52,300 | $1,788 |
| Needs | $1,749 | $1,775 | ($26) |

## Weekly Offering (ICC)

Ending July 13, 2025

| Offertory Type | Received |
|---|---|
| Regular | $4,863 |
| Second | $724 |

**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 the late 1940s, a Navy Veteran, Bill Levitt, had bought a bunch of farm land in Long Island – just to the east of New York City. He had an idea. He could then use this relatively inexpensive land as a place to build standardized homes with standardized fixtures – each home similar to the others – at a fraction of the cost. He could then sell them to couples interested in moving to "the countryside" for $7,990, with no money down. The houses were modernish and even came equipped with the then-uncommon washing machine. What a deal. With this new housing, a new town in Long Island was born: Levittown (population today: 52,000). And Levitt's generous plan also came with an ulterior motive: defeating communism, which was then on the rise worldwide. How did this accomplish that? He reasoned, "No man who owns a house and lot can be a Communist. He has too much to do." You won't have time to overthrow the American government, after all, if you have gutters to be cleaned. Moreover, you won't lean toward a property-grabbing political movement if you own property.

**From Levittown to Delmarva.** From Bill Levitt in the 1940s to the present day, people have worked to improve their surroundings for themselves and others. Even here in the Church, that is done. Each Pastor sets his hand to the till to try to better things in his parish. At Holy Cross, Fr. Hanley oversaw the construction of a new Church in the late 1990s, while at Immaculate Conception, Fr. LaBarge oversaw a renovation of the Parish rectory and added a learning lab.

**Twelve Years Ago.** On July 25, 2013, yours truly was officially installed as Pastor of Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes. It has been quite a ride during that period! And during that period, I have tried to follow in the footsteps of my esteemed forbears, and work to better things at the Parishes. While there is still more to be done, much has been done.

**Working for the Wick-end.** My favorite change (or restoration) happened early in my time at Holy Cross: The re-institution of votive candles. I recall that during my first week as Pastor, I had a funeral at Holy Cross, and a visitor to our parish asked me, "Where can I go to light a candle for the person who died?" And my response was, "Well, if you're heading south after this, then go to St. John's in Milford." That was a resolutely unsatisfying answer for both of us. It also marked the beginning of the return of votive candles to Dover! At that same time, we added a beautiful marble blessing font in the narthex of the Church.

**Ch-ch-changes!** Other changes at Holy Cross are numerous! We created, in the building that was the "old Church," a brand-new Parish Hall. That hall remains stunning; it is something that was very much needed for our Parish and our School. We upgraded our security system, including security cameras, in the school and standardized our locks on all buildings and doors. We spruced up our classrooms in Elementary and Junior High School buildings. We installed a new HVAC system in the church and the gymnasium, while updating various heating and cooling systems in the other building. We installed a new roof on the Church, as well as on the gym, while resealing the then-often-leaking roof on the Elementary School building. We had the entire parking facility of the parish resurfaced and relined. We added wi-fi access in most all of our buildings. We added a ramp to the Parish Hall. We upgraded the rectory's wood floors, installed several new windows, created a new guest suite, and renovated the kitchen, which was likely last upgraded during the Papacy of St. Peter.

We created a new expanded technology lab in the Junior High building, performed various upgrades on the school, created an expanded music room, by way of donation secured newer desks for our Junior High School, added a Ga-Ga Ball Pit for our younger students (by way of an Eagle Scout project), and did a realignment of classrooms between the Early Learning Center and the Elementary School to accommodate for the growth of our school. We switched the middle school into the 21st century, adding Chromebooks as part of the technology used daily by students.

We have added a brand-new, enlarged Adoration Chapel where our Lord awaits the faithful for their prayers and supplications. We added four beautiful stained-glass windows on the north and south sides of the narthex of the Church, as well as installing a large, restored illuminated stained-glass image of Christ at



*(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*



## AUG 3—18th Sunday Ordinary Time

### First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

"There are no pockets in a shroud."

### Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Christians should not categorize people: "Christ is all, and in all."

### Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

A rich man planned to enjoy his wealth but he'd not prepared for his death.

## O.C.I.A.

Here's your invitation to join us for a journey into the Catholic Christian Faith. Do you or someone you know have an interest in becoming a Catholic Christian? We will begin our classes on Sunday, September 7, starting at 9:00 AM on the second floor of the Early Learning Center. Not Sure? Asking for a friend? Join us on Thursday evening, August 28, at 7:00 PM on the second floor of the Early Learning Center to learn more about the process of becoming a Catholic Christian. Call our Religious Education Office at 302-674-5787, ext. 122, or visit our website at WWW.HolyCrossDover.org and click on the link, 'Receiving The Sacraments', and go to R.C.I.A. Looking forward to meeting you and answering your questions.

## 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.

## School Supply Drive

The Social Concerns Committee will be collecting school supplies in the Gathering Space on the weekends of August 2 and August 9. Items such as pencils, pens, glue sticks, 24 count Crayola crayons, notebooks, lined writing paper, and scissors for kids would be greatly appreciated.

## Cathedral of St. Peter

The Cathedral of Saint Peter, in the historic Quaker Hill section of the City of Wilming-

ton, 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 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 BAPTIZED (CORRECTION TO LAST WEEK'S INFORMATION)

Congratulations to our newest baptized members:

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

## 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. 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/AUGUST

**28 MONDAY**
HC 8:00 am William DRobish

**29 TUESDAY**
HC 8:00 am John and Sandra Shontell

**30 WEDNESDAY**
HC 8:15 am LI Shirley Lascano

**31 THURSDAY**
HC 8:O00 am Bill & Mary Schultz
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

**1 FRIDAY**
HC 8:00 am Biter and Mood Families

**2 SATURDAY**
HC 8:00 pm Osunkoya & Apesin Family
HC 5:00 pm Antoinetta Maddalena & Antonio Granito

**3 SUNDAY**
HC 7:30 am Michael F. Callahan
ICC 8:30 am Tom & Doris Costello
HC 9:30 am Jim Porter
ICC 11:00 am Monica Brusca
HC 11:30 am Netteye Evans
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

***July 27/Aug 2*** *Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of HC Parishioners.*
***July 201-Aug 2*** *Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention HC Parishioners.*

## 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.

## August 2/3, 2025

| | EMHC | | Servers |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5:00 PM | M. Sirolli<br>N. Sirolli | J. Bieker<br>C. Bugglin | J. Novack<br>J. Novack |
| | | | **Lectors** |
| | | | F. Urick |
| 7:30 AM | C. Brown<br>J. Chandler | J. Davis<br>J. Denney | S. Murawski<br>C. Wilk |
| | | | **Lectors** |
| | | | R. Pritchett |
| 9:30 AM | G. Wessel<br>M. Wessel | R. Wiley<br>T. Arndt | W. Shuron<br>M. Willoughby |
| | | | **Lectors** |
| | | | C. Petka<br>J. Piece |
| 11:30 AM | A. Cisneros<br>C. Garcia | B. Guzman | TBD |
| | | | **Lectors** |
| | | | TBD |

## Immaculate Conception

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8:30 AM | B. Lawson | | |
| | | | **Lectors** |
| | | | B. Thompson |
| 11:00 AM | M. Soule | | |
| | | | **Lectors** |
| | | | S. Tucker |

### 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,

It is hard to believe that the final week of July is already here. Summer continues to fly by, and each day brings us closer to the return of our students. While we continue to enjoy the quiet moments of summer, this past week on campus has been full of activity and important planning.

On Monday, we met with representatives from the local public school districts to review Title Funding allocations for the upcoming school year. One of the programs supported by this funding is our Back to Basics initiative, which provides pull out tutoring in reading and writing. This program helps students strengthen their foundational skills and gain confidence in the classroom. We are grateful for this partnership and are excited to see the program continue to grow and support our students.

Tuesday brought the launch of another important initiative: our new professional development committee. This team is made up of teachers from various grade levels and subject areas across our school. Together, we began reviewing the scope and sequence of each grade to ensure alignment with state standards, relevance to students' lives, and integration of our Catholic faith. One of the committee's key responsibilities is to plan professional development days based on data, feedback from teachers and parents, and the needs of our students. Having a space for collaboration, reflection, and thoughtful planning is essential to building a strong academic year ahead. We thank Ms. White for hosting this committee and her hospitality.

On Wednesday, we met to continue planning and preparing for our new school library. We are filled with excitement about this revitalized space and cannot wait to open its doors to students and families. The library will serve as a place to foster a love of reading, encourage curiosity, and provide research opportunities. Under the guidance of Mrs. Stant, our students will also learn valuable library skills that will serve them well in their academic journey. We are grateful for the support we have received in making this new space a reality.

Thursday and Friday were quieter in comparison, but they gave us the chance to catch up on other important tasks and continue planning for the year ahead. Every day we are getting closer to welcoming our students back to campus, and the anticipation is building.

It is hard to believe that by the end of this week, we will be in the month of August. We hope everyone continues to enjoy these final weeks of summer. We look forward to reaching out with more updates and sharing all the exciting things happening at Holy Cross Catholic School.

Thank you for your continued support, your prayers, and your faith in our mission. May God bless you and your families with peace, joy, and rest.

With gratitude,

Mrs. O'Mara

the center wall of the narthex. We installed all new doors in the interior of the Church (the original doors, a victim of Delaware humidity, used to have the problem of swelling and being unable to be closed from June through September). We installed an improved sound system in the Church. We replaced windows in the Church and the chapel whose seals had been broken. By way of an Eagle Scout project, we have installed new outdoor Stations of the Cross. Additionally, we reintroduced the Corpus Christi Procession and instituted the annual Holy Cross Novena.

**Meanwhile in Marydel.** At Immaculate Conception, the changes over the past 12 years are vast. When I came to Immaculate Conception, the fear of the folks there was that I was sent to close the Parish. That was not true. I felt like Winston Churchill when he said, in 1942, as Prime Minister, "I have not become the King's First Minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire." I didn't take on the Pastorate in Marydel to close the Parish – but to kick it up a notch. And we did… a lot!

**What Happened?** At ICC, we put new roofs on the Church and the Parish Hall. We restored the Church to its original look and feel, complete with newly installed hardwood flooring, and relocated the tabernacle to the center of the church's sanctuary, putting Jesus once again at the center of our worship. We had the kneelers reupholstered with the aid of an Eagle Scout! We cleaned and scrubbed all the pews. We have a new silver Holy Water dispenser at the back of the Church, as well as a new set of golden processional candles. We redid the backlighting of the circular window with the image of Mary, the Immaculate Conception. We have installed a new sound system in the Church and the hall. We re-worked the sprawling tentacles of electrical wires that traversed the sanctuary of the Church. We restored the original pulpit to the sanctuary. We created a designated Baptistry area in the Church. We put in a new sealed stone floor in the CCD classrooms under the Church. We had the front steps leading up to the Church removed and replaced. We bought new vestments – a complete set for both the priest and deacon. We produced a comprehensive parish history for Immaculate Conception in conjunction with the Parish's 100th anniversary in 2018.

We stripped the parish hall down to the studs and created a brand-new Parish Hall, complete with a video projection system. We then named the hall "Messner Hall" in honor of our late parish secretary, Marge Messner. We had the entire kitchen area of the Parish Hall redone, making it not only nicer to look at, but more importantly, nicer for the county health inspector to look at! We added Wi-Fi to our Parish property, allowing people to be distracted on their iPhones and iPads in more locations than ever. We replaced or upgraded the HVAC systems in the Church, the Parish Office, the Parish Hall, and the Rectory. We have installed new technology in the Parish Office. Most recently, we added a playground area behind the Parish Office.

**The Who.** All of this happened in Dover and Marydel because of the support of my brother Priests, our Deacons, our Parishes' staffs, and, most especially, with the support of the faithful, our Parishioners. At both Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception, there were and are many smaller everyday items that were likewise fixed, replaced, added, or upgraded.

**Facing Forward.** But in all of these things, no matter how big or small, significant, or insignificant – all that we do at our Parishes, while perhaps practical, necessary, or beautifying, are all done for the greater glory of God (*Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*) in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The very existence of our two Parishes is to put beacons of Christ's light in our respective communities, amidst a world too often filled with darkness. And our two Parishes – Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception -- burn bright with Christ's love! They do!

As I finish my second six-year stint in these two parishes (my twelfth year a pastor of Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception, and my 18th year living here at Holy Cross), it is my hope and my expectation to see that light of Christ continue to burn brightly through the faithfulness of our faithful people. I am sure I will not be disappointed at all! God bless you all!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor