



# 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 2, 2023

13th 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



## 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.”

*Matthew 10:38*

© Diocesan  
Christ Leading the Apostles to Mount Tabor, by Lorenzo Lotto, 1512

icc

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1

Assumption, August 15

All Saints' Day, November 1

Immaculate Conception, December 8

Christmas, December 25

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

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**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

## Fourth of July

Parish Offices will be close July 3 and 4 in observation of the Fourth of July holiday.

Mass on July 4 will be celebrated at 9 am at Holy Cross Parish.



## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending June 18, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$27,981	\$26,500	\$1,481
YTD	\$1,360,200	\$1,390,500	(\$30,300)
Needs	\$1,793	\$1,604	\$189

## WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending June 18, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,826
Second Collection	\$312

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 weekend our nation celebrates the 247th anniversary of its self-declared independence. Our nation was and is unique in world history – it is not a nation based on ethnic identity, but rather a nation based on a creedal set of beliefs. Those beliefs were built around religious freedom and acknowledgement of the God who is the author of life. Our nation was founded very much as a nation with Christian underpinnings. Not a nation with a state religion, but a nation guided by and ungirded by the Christian tenets of its people; it continued on that basis for over 200 years.

**I Do Declare.** On July 4th, 1776, 56 men gathered to sign the Declaration of Independence. Of those 56, only one was a Catholic (that wasn't so much anti-Catholic bigotry as much as it was that Catholicism was a very small percentage of the American population at that time). In any event, that one signer of the Declaration of Independence was a man named Charles Carroll. And on this weekend leading to Independence Day, a day of American patriotic fervor, celebration and remembrance, I want to make mention about this early Catholic patriot.

**Before EZ Pass.** Born on September 19, 1837, in Maryland, in the years before EZ Pass and Bay Bridge traffic, Charles Carroll was raised in a Catholic family. As neither Holy Cross nor Immaculate Conception Parishes were been built yet, Carroll attended a secret Jesuit school in Maryland's Cecil County on the eastern shore (for those who are not sure where Cecil County is, it is the county with the outlet stores and the casino). Carroll then was then sent to Europe for his secondary and post-secondary education, receiving a law degree in London.

**Field of Endeavor.** Upon returning back "across the pond" to the colonies, he found that as a Catholic in the Maryland colony, he was banned from voting, he was banned from holding elective office and he was banned from practicing law. Undaunted, he turned his intellect and his entrepreneurial spirit towards agriculture and became vastly successful, dare I say, in that field. He then engaged in other business interests on Maryland's other shore.

**Tea Time.** By the time the 1770s rolled around, Carroll found himself as a leading advocate for American independence. I would say that if Twitter was around back then, Carroll would have been using hash tag #Britaingetout. In 1774, he was scurrilously involved in the burning of a ship called the Peggy Stewart, which was carrying tea to Maryland ports (this was part and parcel of that Boston Tea Party movement of the era). After turning the Chesapeake Bay into the biggest cup of Lipton Tea in history, he continued to lecture and debate on the matter of American Independence. Ultimately, Charles Carroll advocated war – a just war at that – with the British. He saw this as a just action to gain independ-

ence (and as we all learned in history class, this is ultimately what occurred).

**A Sign(er) of the Times.** On July 4th, 1776, Carroll signed the Declaration of Independence. On a note of trivia – and I love trivia – he went on to become the last-living signer of the Declaration, passing from this life in 1832. It is claimed by some, that our First Amendment (guaranteeing Freedom of Religion) was written into the Constitution in consideration of the aid and support of Charles Carroll – and other like-minded Catholics – given to the American Revolutionary War efforts. Carroll later became a legislator in Maryland; in that role he, in later years, sponsored a bill in the Maryland legislature calling for the gradual abolition of slavery. While the bill failed, it garnered support from what would be become the Abolitionist movement in Maryland. He later went on to be the first U.S. Senator from Maryland.

**Lessons and Carrolls.** A lesson to learn is that great faith often runs in families. St. Augustine and St. Monica were mother and son. St. Benedict and St. Scholastica were brother and sister, St Gregory and St. Basil were brothers as were St. Cyril and St. Methodius (brothers). While not saints, the Carroll family has two famous faithful members. Thus, I would be remiss if I failed to mention that Charles Carroll's cousin, John Carroll, went on to become the first Bishop from the United States – Archbishop John Carroll of what is today called the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

**Charles in Charge.** The reason I repeat the story of and sing -- or dare I say Carroll – the praises of this lone Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, is to show the affect that one person can have by visibly living his faith. In a colonial nation where Catholicism was persecuted and even made illegal in some places, Charles Carroll stated his faith and beliefs publicly. His values and his words may not have been popular, but they were nonetheless heard and given consideration. And obviously they had an effect, especially in the realm of Religious Freedom. He took charge of the issue of living one's faith in society, and here in the newly minted United States, he was a trailblazer.

**A Lot of Faith.** At Mass on Tuesday, if using the standard setting for the Tuesday of the 13th Week in Ordinary Time, one will hear Psalm 26. That Psalm as intoned by King David, the Psalmist, says, "I walk in integrity; redeem me, and have mercy on me. My foot stands on level ground." That is perhaps poetic way of saying, I'm standing for what is right and just, and God has my back. Likewise, on

*(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](http://holycrossdover.org/school)

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families who recently lost a loved one



- Anthony Michael Salvatore
- Patrick Edward Nixon
- Geraldine Bevenour

## NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:



- Shawn Marie Campbell
- Jacqueline Marie Campbell
- Liam Patrick O'Reilly

## CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, July 8th, tune-in to hear an interview with Maria V. Gallagher, author of the new book, "Mercy's Power: Inspiration to Serve the Gospel of Life." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at [cdow.org/CatholicForum](http://cdow.org/CatholicForum), or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. You can see videos of select interviews at [YouTube.com/DioceaseofWilm](http://YouTube.com/DioceaseofWilm). For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [@CatholicForum](http://facebook.com/CatholicForum).

## 14TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JULY 0)

FIRST READING: 2 KINGS 4:8-11,14-16

The prophet visualizes the Messiah arriving in Jerusalem and being presented to the crowds as their king—a humble king, seated on a donkey.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:9, 11-13

Paul reminds the early Christians in Rome that God has filled them with the life-giving Spirit of Jesus.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:25-30

Throughout Matthew's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we show that we are true followers of his not so much by our words, as by our deeds.

## GOLF LEAGUE FUND RAISER

The Holy Cross Golf League is grateful to friends of the church for their support for the Catholic Heart Work Camp. Our Fund Raising Committee including Phil Spampinato, Dan Houghtaling, Wes Grau and Greg Coury have so far raised \$5600 for CHWC. We look Forward to additional fund raising through our Golf Tournament 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 Ret-ro-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](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230.

## PRO LIFE NEWS

Great news!! The NEW "Her Care Clinic" pregnancy care center will be opening late summer! Located in Seafood, it provides another opportunity to serve women faced with crisis pregnancies and to save even more babies through the use of Ultrasound, counseling and material support. Counseling for Post Abortive Syndrome will be provided too. This is great news as we must step up efforts and be there for women if we want them to choose life!

## ANNUAL APPEAL

To date, 2023 Shining the Light of Christ – Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal has raised \$4,865,541.15, 21% of our 62,000 registered households throughout the diocese have participated in the appeal to date.

Once a year, we commit ourselves to the ongoing work of our Church by supporting the life-giving Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. As we contemplate the theme – Shining the Light of Christ, we are called to reflect on God's incredible generosity and respond with generous giving of our own. With your

## MASS INTENTIONS JULY

<b>3 MONDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Hernodenes DeCastro, Sr.
<b>4 TUESDAY</b>	
HC 9:00 am	Arlene Runyon
<b>5 WEDNESDAY</b>	
HC 8:15 am	Margaret and John McBeath
<b>6 THURSDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Oscar Buensuceso
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
<b>7 FRIDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Sheila Berninger
<b>8 SATURDAY</b>	
HC 8 am	Adam J. Daniel
HC 5:00 pm	Joe McLaughlin
<b>9 SUNDAY</b>	
HC 7:30 am	Daniel Shea
ICC 8:30 am	Louis Adam
HC 9:30 am	Joan Valentine
ICC 11:00 am	John Carrow
HC 11:30 am	Pia D'Angelo
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION  
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

participation in the appeal, we are Shining the Light of Christ every day in the compassionate outreach of Catholic Charities, to the least among us; in the joy of new priestly vocations; to the many diocesan ministries and programs that heal, teach and care for others. If you have already made a gift to the 2023 appeal, thank you!

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, 123 have participated in the campaign to date. Our parish participation rate is 21%. Of our 275 households at Immaculate Conception, 52 have participated in the campaign to date. Our parish participation rate is 19%.

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

JULY 8/9, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. Darling  
L. Darling

F. Ernst  
D. Field

G. Coyle  
M. Coyle  
S. Murawski

LECTORS

D. Kilby  
H. Walker

7:30 AM

J. Denney  
A. Fischer

J. Fischer  
R. Fritzsche

E. Bydlon  
T. Catipay  
S. Shevock

LECTORS

J. Davis

9:30 AM

D. Martinez  
P. ford

S. Ford  
F. Hanlin

J. Beugre  
C. Beugre  
M. Milligan

LECTORS

S. Crossen  
C. Parks

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez  
E. Patoriza

M. Richard

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

B. Lawson

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

11:00 AM

M. Soule

LECTORS

L. Soule

1:00 PM

TBD

Homebound Ministry at Holy Cross  
Needs Your Help

**Holy Cross is in need of more Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to bring the Eucharist to the shut ins and those in the nursing homes and hospital. We service so many assisted living places, rehabilitation places, nursing homes, the hospital, and the homebound and do not have enough ministers to lighten the load of those already doing this special ministry. Call the Parish Office if you would be interested in helping in this ministry. The next training will be in the Fall.**

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

*We are looking for a new coordinator for the schedule for the Adoration Chapel. JoAnn and Dwight Pate have been holding this position since the chapel opened, but it is now time to pass on this duty to another volunteer. If you are one of our chapel regulars and would like to consider keeping the schedule for the church, please contact the Parish Office. JoAnn will be willing to show you how easy it is to keep the schedule current. Thanks for your consideration.*

MEN OF THE HOLY CROSS (NEW AND MORE CONVENIENT MEETINGS)

It is now easier than ever for you to join the Men of The Holy Cross! You are welcome to come in person or participate from the comfort of your home, sitting in your favorite chair with a cup of coffee. 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. Just type in the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting set up and join our hybrid meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/30861480> Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM You need the ID #83606382292 and pass code 631, for prayer, gospel reflections. Email Steve Balogh with any questions: [stphenb\\_01@yahoo.com](mailto:stphenb_01@yahoo.com).

- 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 podarán los árboles y arbustos, se pondrá Mulch alrededor de toda a propiedad. Se limpiará dentro y fuera del templo. Necesitamos voluntarios que se anotén 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.
- 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 y un compromiso que con llevar servir en cualquier ministerio de la iglesia. 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 Epitacio Méndez, Martha Espinosa, José Cruz Pérez.
- AÑO DE AVIVAMIENTO PARROQUIAL 11 DE JUNIO 2023- 17 DE JULIO 2024. La segunda fase fomentará la devoción eucarística a nivel parroquial, fortaleciendo nuestra vida litúrgica a través de la celebración fiel de la misa, la adoración eucarística, las misiones, los recursos, la predicación y los movimientos orgánicos del Espíritu Santo. El hoy domingo 11 de junio con la Santa Misa y la Procesión con Jesús Sacramentado alrededor de los predios de nuestra parroquia. Se les pide a todos los ministros que por favor participen.
- 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 y el 21 de mayo 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@iccmaydel.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.



## 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](mailto: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.

Thank you to all the youth, adults, volunteers who helped with Catholic Heart Work Camp this year. We had a super week at Holy Cross with our groups from Michigan and Wisconsin.

## 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 per child.

**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@icmarydel.org](mailto:dre@icmarydel.org) or 410-482-8939.

Classes begin on Sunday, September 24th, 2023.

**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. Volunteers still needed. Contact Alicia Poppiti if interested in assisting.



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

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 Science-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 day. For more information, call Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939. Children must be registered to attend.



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

## Preamble to the Declaration of Independence

An established and well-founded “system” of education during eighteenth century America might best be characterized as one built with parental support and involvement with small family-based school settings. For many reasons, they were far more prominent than any formal settings established by governmental administration. No historian am I, but it almost sounds like the earliest schools were akin to the modern-day concept of what we view as home-schooling. Families and small communities lead efforts to create learning opportunities for their children. At the insistence of the Puritans, literacy was strongly emphasized in the effort to prepare and enable the reading and understanding of scripture. Over time, eighteenth century curriculum was greatly expanded with the European model acting as a guide in its formation.

Without getting too heavily enmeshed in the intricacies of the history and development of formal education in America, I thought it might be appropriate to have a look at some of the thoughts and opinions of our founding forefathers on the need for and the state of the eighteenth-century educational system on this the upcoming 247th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Revolutionary period in American history is one of my favorites, so I have sited a couple of the more influential historical figures of that era. Please note that any spelling, grammar, or punctuation errors are the original errors of the historical figure. I include them for the purpose of authenticity.

**John Adams:** Quite the learned man, Mr. Adams excelled in his academics. His favorite subjects were science and mathematics, and with the assistance of his favorite instructor, Harvard Professor John Winthrop, Adams distinguished himself from his contemporaries. Mr. Adams’ had a deep affection for books, and as a student at Harvard, he was rarely to be found without a book in hand. He maintained a love of learning for the whole of his life.

- “All the End of study is to make you a good Man and a useful Citizen.”
- “Liberty cannot be preserved without a general knowledge among the people.”

**Benjamin Franklin:** Although Mr. Franklin did not have the benefit of a college education due to the financial burden it posed for his family, he believed it was of the utmost importance for colonial Americans to receive a formal education. Along with others who shared the Enlightenment ideals of reason and free inquiry, he also held the opinion that moral virtue was formed through the acquiring of a formal education.

- “Energy and persistence conquer all things.”
- “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”
- “The only thing that is more expensive than education is ignorance,”

**Thomas Jefferson:** It was some years prior to his penning of the nation’s Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson enrolled at the College of William and Mary in Virginia where Mr. Jefferson’s course of study included physics, metaphysics, and mathematics, along with rhetoric, logic, and ethics.

- “Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”
- ‘I think by far the most important bill in our whole code is that for the diffusion of knowlege among the people. no other sure foundation can be devised for the preservation of freedom, and happiness.”

**George Washington:** Unlike many of his peers, the nation’s first President never received a formal education. Early on in life, the death of his father caused the need for his family to restrict funds thus prohibiting him from attending an educational institution. As an alternative, he assisted his mother on the farm and attended a local school in Fredericksburg, VA. Throughout the rest of his life, Washington supplemented his education with reading and self-guided study.

- “To encourage literature and the arts is a duty which every good citizen owes to his country.”
- “The investigation of mathematical truths accustoms the mind to method and correctness in reasoning, and is an employment peculiarly worthy of rational beings.”

I wonder what words of wisdom our forefathers might offer on the current state of the American educational system. I wonder what words of advice they might offer for modern-day American youth. I wonder what they might think of the twists and turns taken in the formation of the present-day curriculum of American schools.

Dismay and astonishment are two words that come to mind that might fitfully describe their reaction to the current state of American education 247 years following our Declaration of Independence. I believe their sage advice and wise counsel would encourage parents towards the precepts and teachings of the Catholic school in America.

In conclusion, extracted from a document entitled “On the Mode of Education Proper in a Republic,” authored by American statesman, physician, deeply committed to the revolutionary cause, and signer of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Rush in 1798: *“the only foundation for a useful education in a republic is to be laid in Religion. Without this there can be no virtue, and without virtue there can be no liberty, and liberty is the object and life of all republican governments.”*

Thank you, Mr. Rush. Very well said.

Tuesday, in the first reading, Lot and his family are protected by the Lord, and spared the fate of those in Sodom and Gomorrah, spared “the rain sulfurous fire” that destroyed two godless cities in which people shunned righteousness and justice for their own debased pleasures. Lot and his lot —like Charles Carroll and his like-minded country men— led with their faith, with their footing on level ground. They both forged their way to new lands, and they both strived to see a nation built on righteous, on justice and on pre-eminent place of God in society, with one’s faith as the bulwark against the evil that men do.

**Catholics Need Not Apply?** Well, jumping from the Old Testament, to 1776, and then to today, it would certainly seem that in our nation today, the faith lived by Lot, and the faith propounded by Charles Carroll, is under continuous attack and that religion as a whole seems to be becoming marginalized. As one journalist I read noted, we are coming dangerously close to seeing the Government hold the position that when it comes to holding office, Catholics need not apply. Could that be the future for Catholics and committed Christians in our nation? Perhaps.

**Of Winter Holidays and Egg Hunts.** As Christ is erased from our nation’s history, as Christmas is relegated to a winter holiday, and Easter to an egg hunt. As Christians are told to keep their values out of the public square, out of the courts, out of the halls of power, out of our schools, and simply put, out of sight, the possibility of our nation becoming something other than what Charles Carroll signed us up for, is made more possible.

**Fear Not.** At times, for us, living in a society at times so at odds with our faith, there is a natural temptation for some to prefer to retreat, rather than confront, and to practice our religion in private and in secret (like Charles Carroll had to do in his younger years in a secretly operated Catholic school). But Charles Carroll gives us an example of faithful citizenship: To fight that good fight, and make the teachings of Jesus Christ known, not just in our Church building and in our living room, but in the public square, in the halls of Government, and in the courtroom. And we should not fear, as Christ tells his followers so often!

**Sweet Freedom.** And our Lord is with us. He not only blesses our nation, but blesses each of us individually with rights endowed by Him. Our nation, in its battle for independence, sought freedom, and saw that freedom as God-given. That sense of freedom, and what freedom entailed, later found prose form in our Constitution’s Bill of Rights. The first of the many God-given freedoms enshrined in that document was our Freedom of Religion which was expressed in 16 powerful words: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

**Slouching Toward Gomorrah?** Let me be clear, the words of this Amendment speak to, not a citizen’s freedom from religion, but rather a religious establishment’s freedom to preach and practice its faith unencumbered by the hand of Government. It is an implicit statement recognizing the value our nation’s founders placed on religious freedom to witness and worship our “Creator” and “Divine Providence” (as God is called in the Declaration of Independence). It is a freedom that is imperiled by a society more taken by bread and circus, than Divine providence; as a society, we are slouching toward Gomorrah. But it is time to change course.

**God Bless America.** So, on this Independence Day weekend 2023, I commend you to pray for our nation, that God might continue to bless America, and that we may continue to make Christ and his Church known to all, in season and out -- as an unfettered and religiously free people. Let us, on this Independence Day, celebrate our independence as a nation that celebrates its dependence on God. In the normative first reading for today from Genesis, in the wake of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, God tells Abraham that if he remains faithful to Him, that *“I will bless you abundantly, and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore; your descendants shall take possession of the gates of their enemies, and in your descendants all the nations of the earth shall find blessing -- all this because you obeyed my command.”* That promises extends to us, through the covenant sealed in the blood of Christ.

And so, let us make ourselves worthy of the promises of Christ, by heeding God’s admonition to Abraham to remain faithful. In doing so, we to rightly can seek God’s blessing. May God bless America, always and keep our nation imbued with Christian values as mankind last best hope! On this Independence Day, on this Fourth of July, let’s do Charles Carroll proud!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor