



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 30, 2023

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



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” *Matthew 13:44*

The Hidden Treasure by James Tissot, circa 1896-1894
© Doosan

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

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

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Immaculate Conception Summer Office Hours:

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



ANNUAL APPEAL

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

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

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending July 16, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$28,084	\$26,376	\$1,708
YTD	\$75,289	\$79,128	(\$3,839)
Needs	\$849	\$1,172	(\$863)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending July 16, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,119
Second Collection	\$509

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,

Let me start by noting that this past Tuesday, July 25, 2023 marked the tenth anniversary of my being installed as Pastor at both Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parish. I was formally installed on July 25 — the Feast of St. James — by Msgr. Thomas Cini of happy memory, who had been my first pastor.

Trying to Make it All Work. It has been an interesting, spiritually powerful, and at times, challenging ten years. Soon before I became Pastor, I was told that I'd be pastoring two parishes instead of one: Holy Cross (Dover) and Immaculate Conception (Marydel). I was given the admonition "try to make it all work." Well, I am pleased to say that after 10 years — and with the help of a wonderful staff — this creation of one-pastor two-parishes, has worked well, after a bumpy start.

Changes. Sadly, in 2020, we lost our local Catholic High School (St. Thomas More) and also have seen — as is normal in the life of any parish — some long time parishioners pass from this life since 2013. But amidst the sad news, there is much more good news. Thus, it pleases me to be able to report that both parishes have seen some important changes over the past ten years:

- **Immaculate Conception**

- ◊ Saw its Church building restored, with the removal of carpeting and the installation of a new hard wood floor.
- ◊ Pews were cleaned; kneelers were reupholstered; sanctuary redone.
- ◊ A baptistry was added; electrical work was completed.
- ◊ New sound system was installed.
- ◊ Heating and air condition units were replaced.
- ◊ The late evening Sunday Spanish-language mass was moved to one'o'clock in the afternoon and attendance boomed.
- ◊ The Parish Hall underwent a major overhaul — new floors, new stage area, new electrical system, wifi-access points and more recently a new HVAC system.

- ◊ Rebuilt the retaining wall in front of the Parish Office.
- ◊ Brought the Parish Hall kitchen up to code and had it certified by the County.
- ◊ New freezers for the hall.
- ◊ Electrical upgrades of the rectory.
- ◊ Repaving of the parking lot.
- ◊ Leveling of the foundation of the church.
- ◊ Technology upgrades to parish office and installation of video system bringing church Mass into the hall.
- ◊ Reinforcement of handicap ramp to the church.
- ◊ Roof of Parish Hall replaced.
- **Holy Cross**
 - ◊ Saw the opening of its new Parish Hall (on the site of the old Church).
 - ◊ Building of a new, larger, and beautiful Adoration Chapel and allowing for a practical Bride's Room.
 - ◊ Votive candle-rack put in.
 - ◊ New roof put on the Church.
 - ◊ New HVAC system installed.
 - ◊ Full reupholstering of the pews, chairs and kneelers in the Church and Adoration Chapel.
 - ◊ A classic marble blessing font added to the narthex.
 - ◊ Five stained glass windows were added to the narthex including the stunning backlit Christ the King image.
 - ◊ An upgraded sound system for the Church.
 - ◊ New altar cloths made to match the clergy vestments.
 - ◊ The addition of six golden candle sticks and new holders festooning the altar.

(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

CATHEDRAL OF ST. PETER COLLECTION

The Cathedral of Saint Peter, in the historic Quaker Hill section of the City of Wilmington, is the Bishop's own parish and the center of Catholicism in our diocese. It was built over 200 years ago – 50 years before the founding of the Diocese of Wilmington - and continues with a small but dedicated parish community and school. In 2015, the diocese instituted an annual special collection to support the maintenance and ministry of our Cathedral. This year, the collection will be held on August 12 & 13. More information is available at www.cathedralofstpeter.com. You can make a secure, online donation at www.cdot.org/cathedral. We thank you for your generosity

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, August 5th, tune-in for part-one of our two-week salute to Father Roberto Balducelli, OSFS, who passed away 10 years ago, on August 9, 2013. On this episode we will hear highlights from an interview with Father Roberto from 2006. 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. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [@CatholicForum](http://facebook.com/CatholicForum).

TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD (AUG 6)

FIRST READING: DANIEL 7:9-10, 13-14

The sovereignty of Christ is the sovereignty of humanity over death.

SECOND READING: 2 PETER 1:16-19

The world seems dark, because we are called to a greater light.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:1-9

That Christ is the beloved Son of the Father is the most fundamental truth of all, and the key to the mysteries of our life.

GOLF LEAGUE

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

RETRouvaille

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming programs will be held August 18 - 20 and again October 6 - 8, 2023 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230.

FIRST SATURDAY MASS

First Saturday Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Shrine at Old Bohemia Mission on Saturday, August 5 at 11:00 AM. Father Mark Horak, SJ will be the presider. Father Horak teaches religion at Gonzaga College High School in Washington, DC, and serves as chaplain to many of the school’s sports teams. He has previously worked as an immigration lawyer in a non-profit legal services program and as a pastor in Jesuit parishes in Philadelphia, Washington DC, and Atlanta. Father Horak will hear confessions 30 minutes before the start of Mass.

The Rosary will be recited after Mass. The rectory museum will be open at 9:00 AM for tours.

**MASS INTENTIONS
JULY/AUGUST**

- 31 MONDAY**
HC 8:00 am James and Mary Schultz
- 1 TUESDAY**
HC 8:00 am Camille Betts
- 2 WEDNESDAY**
HC 8:15 am Jim Clougherty
- 3 THURSDAY**
HC 8:00 am Elizabeth D’Aguillo
ICC 6:00 pm For the People
- 4 FRIDAY**
HC 8:00 am Don St. Clare & Harry Antonick
- 5 SATURDAY**
HC 8 am Robert Ives
HC 5:00 pm Helen Bugglin
- 6 SUNDAY**
HC 7:30 am James McGraw
ICC 8:30 am Bill & Bob Kriss
HC 9:30 am Emma Zapanta Donato
ICC 11:00 am Peggy O’Meara
HC 11:30 am Greg Couls

*(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)*

The Jesuit order founded Old Bohemia in 1704. The Shrine, located at 1690 Bohemia Church Road in Warwick, MD, is the Mother Church of the Diocese of Wilmington. First Saturday Masses will continue through the end of the year. Email OldBohemiaHS@gmail.com or call 302.545.2126 for additional information.



AUG 5/6, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

J. Bieker D. Darling
J. Clendaniel L. Darling

A. Torbert
B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

H. Walker
F. Urick

7:30 AM

T. Dinan S. Gede
R. Fritzsche P. Jackson

A. Costa
E. Costa
M. Costa

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM

T. Arndt K. Boyer
D. Banach S. Cordie

A. Wilk
C. Wilk
R. Willemin

LECTORS

S. Ford
C. Parks

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez M. Richard
E. Patoriza

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

S. Bell

LECTORS

K. Cairns

11:00 AM

G. Taraila

LECTORS

L. Soule

1:00 PM

TBD

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

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

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday We have openings where you can spend quality time with Our Lord. Call the Parish Office at 674-5787 to reserve a time for you.



SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm, 8 pm

MONDAY 5 pm

TUESDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 pm

WEDNESDAY 7 am

FRIDAY 6 am

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

NEWEST MEMBERS

Welcome to our newly registered member:

- Joseph Couls
- Jonathan, Taylor, Mackenna, Marjorie, Cameron and Patrick McNally
- Michael Papas
- Megan Stark
- Jason and Christopher Carr

SAMARITAN FOOD PANTRY

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

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

Please drop the food in the Pantry Food Drop Box in the building behind the Rectory. We have a new green sign near the drop box door.

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

ICC

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

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

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

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

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

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

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

Please get your children registered now, so that we may plan accordingly. Fees are \$60 for 1 child, \$120 for 2 children, \$180 for 3 children and \$200 for more than 4 children.

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 or 410-482-8939.

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

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

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

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

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

Donations needed for ICC VBS: contact office or bring to office during office hours, by July 31, Noon. Thank you.

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

One of the most difficult things for me to do is drink water. It takes a lot of self-discipline to drink water throughout the day as I've been told to do by many. During the school year I don't have the time, and I refuse to carry a bottle of water everywhere I go. That does not work for me. I've tried all kinds of things to make the tasteless beverage more appealing; I've bought myself fancy cups, I've added cucumber and lemon, maybe a little fruit juice, nothing thus far has served the purpose of maintaining proper hydration. Truth be known I walk around dehydrated, or very close to it most of the time. There are consequences associated with this. I have had up close and personal encounters with the consequences. Do you think that I have learned anything from those experiences? Not really.

The fact is this. I was raised during an age when soda and Kool-Aid were the favorite beverages in the house. Water was an option for the thirsty folks. Nowadays water is the beverage of choice. I still haven't learned to drink the clear liquid with any real degree of regularity.

What it all comes down to is choice. I can make all kinds of excuses because I am trying my best to rationalize my choice to not drink water. Until it all catches up with me, and I am filled with resolve to do better. I buy myself a new and very attractive cup to heighten the appeal of the hydrogen/oxygen cocktail; it works for a while.

It has been said that, in life we are nothing but a sum of our choices. Everything comes down to choosing. Learning to make the right choices is not innate. We need guidance, direction, sometimes a little coercion works to teach the lesson of making a good choice. The worst part is in the making....sometimes other options seems so much more appealing and more fun.

We are at the speed of lightning fast approaching August 28, 2023. That happens to be a very significant date for more than just a few of my friends. It will be on the 28th day of the eighth month that those double doors will open wide to over three hundred fifty enthusiastic, and smartly dressed children. Many will be filled with a determination to make this a better year than last. To make better choices. Maybe it will be to get higher grades, or perhaps the tough choice might come with selecting friends, maybe the choice is to work as hard as last year, or maybe it's a choice to improve behavior at school. Ultimately, the choice is made by the child no matter the amount of counselling or direction provided. Sometimes students will find greater willpower to improve when they cross over into middle school. New building, new uniform, new schedule, new teachers....what better time to adopt a new you?

The key to success lies in the amount of effort. The key to success lies in the amount of time dedicated to regularly planned review and reinforcement of information given during the school day. There is no slack time once school starts. There are other commitments, athletics, dance, gymnastics; a workable schedule to fit it all in has to be established early on. It's hard to keep all the plates spinning simultaneously. They are but children, after all.

So, one thing that always seems to help is establishing a routine. Imposing structure in the home, a set time for the evening meal, a set time for outdoor play following the school day, a set time for homework. A set time for studying. How many times has it been said with great glee that "there is no homework tonight!" Reading between the lines, the cheerful child simply means that there is no written homework. Well, that's great!! Now we have time to practice the spelling words, or read for twenty minutes, or review the Science notes, or practice a few of the Math problems you had difficulty with last week.

We all want our children to be successful. I have always been very proud of and admired the perseverance of our teachers in teaching their students the great value of a work ethic. It is a lesson that will see one through life. A work ethic defines a person. Plain and simple.

I include this week a list of tried-and-true practices in the formation of successful study habits.

1. **DON'T ATTEMPT TO CRAM ALL OF YOUR STUDY TIME INTO ONE SESSION.** Evenly spacing out shorter study sessions will typically aid in the retention of the material.
2. **PLAN WHEN YOU ARE GOING TO STUDY.** Successful students schedule specific times throughout the week when they are going to study -- and then they stick with their schedule.
3. **EACH SESSION SHOULD HAVE A SPECIFIC, REALISTIC GOAL.** For example, memorize the definitions of the first 10 geometry terms.
4. **DON'T PROCRASTINATE IN GETTING THE STUDY SESSION STARTED.** Stick to the schedule and then there is no cramming, no hurry. Make the right choice.....
5. **BEGIN WITH THE MOST DIFFICULT SUBJECT FIRST.** Mental energy is higher at the outset.
6. **MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS,** find a good and comfortable space, give the phone over to mom or dad during study time. Make the best choice.....
7. **STUDY GROUPS** are also effective. Moral support, or a shared goal is never a bad thing.
8. **MAKE USE OF WEEKEND TIME.** Highly effective students realize the value of a little extra time.

Does it sound like a whole lot of fun? Maybe not, but the benefits of learned success are invaluable. Good habits formed early are lasting. Just be sure the habits are formed by the wise choices made.

And now, It is time to refill my fancy, new water cup.

- ◇ Renovations to the Rectory's kitchen, laundry room, hardwood floors, stairways in inside rectory area redone and carpeted.
- ◇ Added two restrooms in the narthex of the church and renovated the foyers to this area, school, and Parish Hall area.
- ◇ The confession schedule was expanded from its 4:00-4:50 pm before Mass on Saturday night to 8:30 am-10:00 am on Saturday morning with two priests after Mass (the number of people attending confession has grown tremendously).
- ◇ Mass schedule was adapted to reflect having two assigned priests instead of three.
- ◇ Began Holy Cross Novena before its Feast Day.
- ◇ Added handicapped electronic doors on Portico entrance to church.
- ◇ Moved Samaritan Food Pantry to Carriage House for more space and easier access.
- ◇ Security system installed including electronic locks and cameras to various buildings.
- ◇ New boiler in cafeteria which heats Parish Hall.
- ◇ New floors to back sacristy and sound room and new door to back sacristy.
- **Holy Cross School**
 - ◇ Has seen an increase in enrollment over the past few years.
 - ◇ Began the practice of weekly Mass attendance by students on Wednesday mornings..
 - ◇ Added a robotics lab and new media center.
 - ◇ New improved music room for more space; art gallery in front lobby of school added.
 - ◇ School chapel (in the Junior High building) was created.
 - ◇ Instituted the use of Chrome Books for entire school.
 - ◇ Establishment of a successful Pre-Kindergarten program for three-year olds.
 - ◇ Wifi points added throughout the school property, along with the school and parish getting a new server, new wiring, new computers, and other new technologies (all maintained by a professional technology maintenance provider).
 - ◇ VCRs and DVD players were replaced with classroom projectors and smart-boards.
 - ◇ New roof on annex of school.
 - ◇ New roof to gymnasium and added air conditioning to this much used space.

The Faithful of the Parish. There are many more small changes and improvements made in both parishes, but two significant items to mention are that Holy Cross remains the largest parish in the Diocese and Immaculate Conception (which has grown immensely) is one of the fastest growing parishes in the Diocese with Mass attendance up over 40% from 2014.

Hispanic Ministry. Another change that I made when I got here regards Hispanic Ministry — as Pastor I decided that there would not be a “designated” Spanish-speaking priest doing all the Spanish Masses and sacraments, but rather that ALL of our priests would have to learn some amount of Spanish and share in the mass rotation, treating the Spanish Mass like the other parishes masses. This allowed the full integration of Hispanic ministry into the Priestly ministry of the parish and parish life. Both Hispanic communities — Dover and Marydel — have grown substantially in these past 10 years.

Thank You All. I want to thank all of you — my dear parishioners — for your ongoing support of our two wonderful parishes here in the center of, and indeed in the heart of, the Delmarva peninsula. I thank you for ten years of leading two parishes that are so strongly committed to the practice of the Catholic faith, so powerfully pro-life, so devoted to our Blessed Mother and, above all, so faithful in following the ways of Christ. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor