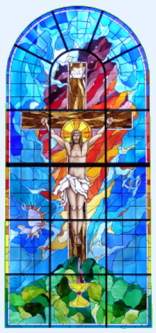


Church of the Holy Cross

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception

July 6, 2025 — **14th 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

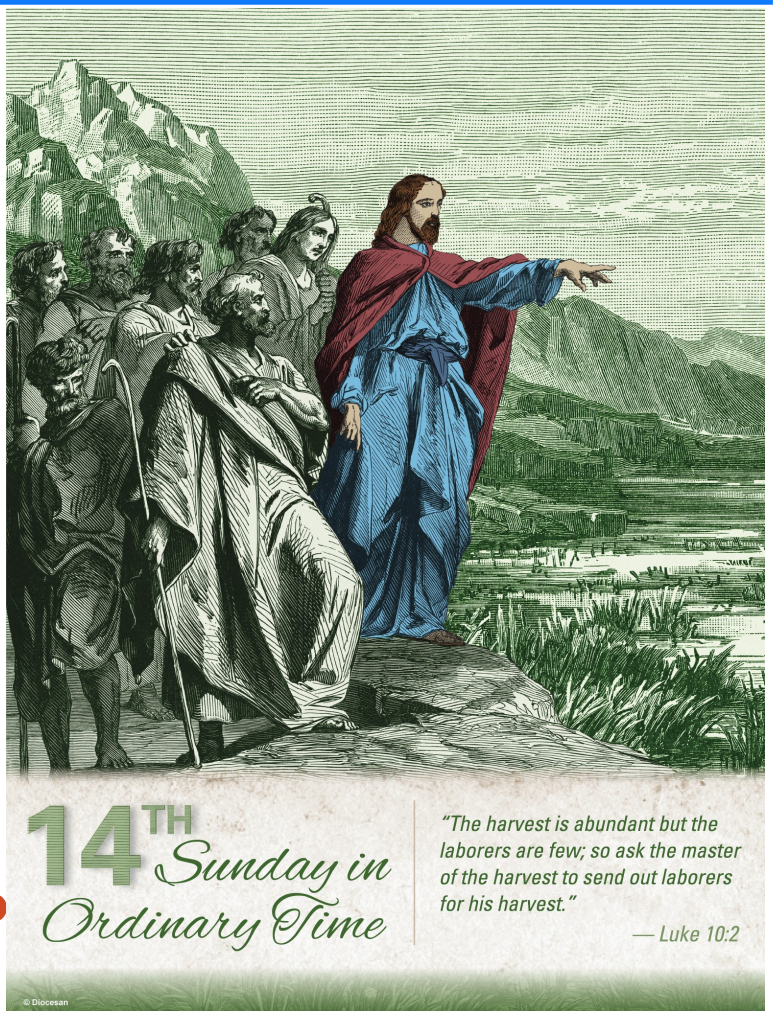
Adoration Chapel Hours
Daily, 5 am—9 pm

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

Adult Education Opportunities Catechism in a Year:

Catechism in a Year:
https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear

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

God Bless America!

stewardship

Weekly Offering (HC)

Ending June 22, 2025

Offertory Type	Received	Budgeted/ Needed	Difference
Regular	$27,060	$26,380	$680
YTD	$1,354,500	$1,375,476	($20,976)
Needs	$1,913	$1,775	$138

Weekly Offering (ICC)

Ending June 22, 2025

Offertory Type	Received
Regular	$3,825
Second	$597

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,

On July 4 and during this entire weekend, our nation will celebrate its 249th Independence Day. It marks the 249th anniversary of the day, July 4, when the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Second Continental Congress, with the signature of Delaware's own Caesar Rodney upon it. Flags will be waving. Patriotism will abound. And of course, fireworks will be fired off (for those of a certain age, the sky will look like the opening sequence of "Love American Style," for those of a younger age, the sky will look like your iPhone screen when someone texts a "congratulations" to your Apple Messages app).

Independence vs Dependence. In a bit of an Independence Day twist, I am writing this column not just about independence, but its complement: dependence. I will warn you in advance that I will take a circuitous route to get to the matter of independence and dependence, so turn on your GPS, run to 7-11 and grab a Big Gulp, and settle in for a spell. As comedian Jackie Gleason used to say at the start of his show — "and away we go!"

Labor Daze. Let's jump back to the first century. There is a very famous Gospel passage from St. Matthew (11:28-30) about those wearied and haggard by labor and life's burdens; it reads as follows:

> *"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."*

Of Quiet Riot and Burdens. The message of that passage seems to be that we who labor and are burdened should take Christ's yoke upon ourselves. Now, on its face, that might seem an odd answer for someone feeling burdened. Very odd. To make an analogy, it seems to be saying something like, "For those of you with a headache, put on these headphones, full volume, and listen to Quiet Riot or Metallica." For those of you not familiar with Quiet Riot or Metallica, just think of head-banging heavy metal music. Similarly, for those of you not familiar with farm items, when the scripture says we take Christ's yoke upon us, be aware that a "yoke" is what is placed over the neck of an ox to hook it to and allow it to pull a plow. A yoke is the burdener of the beast of burden.

Beware: Yoke Joke. So, why would Christ tell us that when we are burdened, to put on his yoke? Is this some kind of a bad yoke? (Yes, I made a yoke joke!) But, wouldn't that yoke be another burden, on top of your other burdens? The short answer is, "No, it wouldn't." You see, a yoke is a large "M" shaped farm device, and it doesn't get used for a single animal — instead, it binds (yokes) two oxen together. Like a game of chess, a slow dance, a tandem bike, and a Ren & Stimpy cartoon script, a yoke is always made for two.

A Pair of Soxen? This yoking is done so that the two animals can both work together to pull the plow. The pair of oxen, like a pair of soxen (?!), work best together. Thus, by being yoked, one ox cannot pull ahead of the other, nor can the other ox fall behind; if one of the oxen tires and can't go on, the other ox, by being yoked to him, can pull him along the rest of the way.

With the Help of God. So, Christ in that Gospel passage I noted from St. Matthew (11:28-30), tells us to take his yoke upon ourselves when we are labored and burdened. That is to say that we are to bind ourselves to Christ and yoke ourselves with him. Why? Because when the burden becomes too much and the load too heavy, Christ will carry the load with us —and if necessary, for us— and pull us along the rest of the way. In our daily lives as Christians, the image of the yoke is important to remember, because Christ is not only pulling for us, indeed, he is pulling with us.

Independence Day. On this Independence Day weekend, let us remind ourselves that we are never

(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

July 13—15th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:10-14
God's word is very close to us so we can put it into practice.
Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-20
Jesus is the image of God and the firstborn of all creation.
Gospel: Luke 10:25-37
When Jesus was asked what the most important commandment is, he told the story of the Good Samaritan.

Samaritan's Food Pantry

The pantry is still in need of the following items: Cereal, oatmeal, one pound bags of white rice, peanut butter and jelly, Brownie mix, hamburger helper, Manwich, and Progresso or Campbell's chunky soups. Meat donations can be left in the freezer drop off behind the rectory along with the Dry-good items. Dry-good items can also be left in the drop box in the church.

Catholic Forum

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, learn about an organization that helps men and women fulfil their vocations to the priesthood and religious life, when Mary Radford from The Fund for Vocations, is the guest. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at cdow.org/CatholicForum and FaceBook.com/CatholicForum.

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 August 1 - 3 and October 3 - 5 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, vis-

it www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Recently Deceased

Our condolences to the families of the recently deceased members:

- G. Mark Grimm
- Margarito Flores Saucedo

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.

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. All meetings are held on Sundays, from 7 – 8:00 p.m. CT. 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

Thanks

Thank You for your support for the baby shower. We raised over $1,000 and received so many beautiful baby outfits and much needed items from the list.

For the baby shoe drive, Holy Cross donated over $800 and many shoes, which provided 255 pairs of baby shoes. Altogether, DRTL raised nearly 800 pairs of shoes representing aborted children.

These were displayed on the steps of the Capital and featured in The Dialog. Holy Cross shoes went to New Day and the others were disseminated throughout the remaining centers.

Mass Intention
July

7 Monday
HC 8:00 am — Sheila Berninger

8 Tuesday
HC 8:00 am — Josey Nazio Miquel Colombo

9 Wednesday
HC 8:15 am — Ray and Wanda Sumera

10 Thursday
HC 8:O00 am — Ted Zak
ICC 6:00 pm — For the People

11 Friday
HC 8:00 am — Thomas E. Dodd

12 Saturday
HC 8:00 pm — Morris and Pakstis Families
HC 5:00 pm — DM Lagassey Family

13 Sunday
HC 7:30 am — Robin Ann Apostoline
ICC 8:30 am — Alma & Calvin Smith
HC 9:30 am — Paul Janiga
ICC 11:00 am — Goulrich Family
HC 11:30 am — For the People
ICC 1:00 pm — For the People

June 29—July 5 *Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of Parishioners of Holy Cross.*

June 22-June 28 *Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of Parishioners of Holy Cross.*

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.

July 12/13, 2025

	EMHC		Servers
5:00 PM	D. Darling L. Darling	D. Field S. Garber	M. Wenck L. Curley
			Lectors
			G. Murphy
7:30 AM	T. Dinan A. Fischer	J. Fischer S. Lascona	E. Costa M. Costa
			Lectors
			J. Davis
9:30 AM	D. Martinez F. Hanlin	K. Kelly D. McGinnis	L. Boggs P. Cusatis
			Lectors
			S. Crossen S. Ford
11:30 AM	T. Hernandez E. Pastoriza	M Richard	TBD
			Lectors
			TBD

Immaculate Conception

8:30 AM	E. Costello		
			Lectors
			T. Woodeshick
11:00 AM	J. Carrow		
			Lectors
			L. Soule

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:
Monday 7-8AM 5-6PM
Friday 2 –3 PM

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.

Spiritual Quotation Worth Thinking About

A Catholic without prayer is the same as a soldier without arms.

St. Josemaria Escriva

- **¡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 Peregrinar a la Puerta Santa de la parroquia de 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 del jubileo, 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 comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Saldremos de Dover a las 2:00 pm y partiremos de regreso a las 7:30pm.
- **GRAN RETIRO DE JOVENES "VUELVE A NACER"** La parroquia San Juan Apóstol en Milford invita a todos los jóvenes de 12-23 años a vivir 2 días de retiro donde volverás a nacer en Cristo. 4 jóvenes vienen desde el Perú, para facilitar este gran retiro.
- **Sábado, 26 de julio,2025** edades 12-16 años de (10 AM- 3PM) 17-23 años(4PM – 9PM)
- **Domingo ,27 de julio,2025** edades 12-16 años años de (10 AM- 3PM) 17-23 años (4PM – 7PM). Hay que inscribirse antes. Parroquia San Juan Apóstol 506 Seabury Ave, Milford, DE 19963 para más información llame al 302-422-5123.
- **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
- **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, Nos volveremos a comprometer y reclutar para continuar con este ministerio en las próximas semanas. Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com BÚSCANOS EN EL NATEX PRONTO. Y RECOGE UN FOLLETO.

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** Los jóvenes invitan al Torneo amistoso inter parroquial el domingo 10 de agosto, a las 2:30pm. Habrá venta de comida y mucho más, traiga a toda su familia y pase un día 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

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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

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 them through 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

Dear Parishioners,

The first week of July has already filled our campus offices with energy and purpose. On Monday we began submitting textbook and curriculum orders so that every classroom will be fully supplied when students return in August. Tuesday was devoted to a careful reading of the Holy Cross Parent Student Handbook. Page by page, faculty and staff members came together to form a committee where we compared each guideline of our handbook with our schools mission; ensuring we made improvements where needed. I am grateful for the teachers who spent part of their vacation prayerfully reviewing every section so that our policies will serve students and families well.

Wednesday brought another round of interviews for the school counselor position. Representatives from every building met outstanding candidates who share our passion for Catholic education and social emotional well being. The professionalism and compassion shown during these conversations reminded me once again how blessed we are by our faculty. I hope to introduce our new counselor soon!

At the heart of this week, we did enjoy and celebrate the Fourth of July with the flash of sparklers and the brilliance of fireworks however, the Fourth of July is more than barbecues and fireworks; it is a living reminder of our country's freedom and we pause to reflect and thank God for this each and every day.

Next summer our nation will observe the two hundred fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and we look forward to helping our students prepare for this historic milestone by deepening their understanding of civic virtue and faithful citizenship.

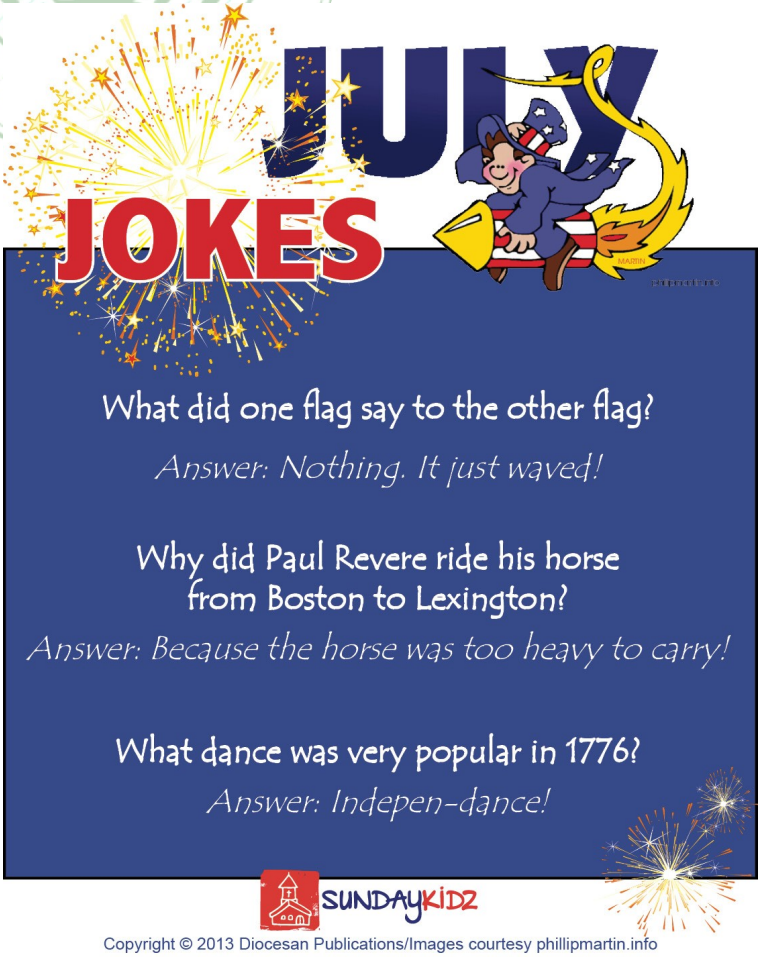
There is still much to accomplish before the first day of school. Class schedules are being balanced, supply lists verified, and classrooms refreshed. Tours for prospective families continue and summer enrollment remains strong. If you know of neighbors who are seeking a community that unites academic excellence with the love of Christ, please invite them to call the office. Every new Crusader family enriches our mission.

Next week our calendar includes meetings, training sessions, and further handbook revisions. Each task is another opportunity to serve the children God entrusts to us, and I remain grateful for your partnership.

Thank you for your prayers and for the many ways you keep Holy Cross strong. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe during these joyful summer days.

Be well and God bless,

Mrs. O'Mara



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100% independent in this life – in fact, we are very dependent on Him, our God, for all that we have. It is said that a good man is never alone, and that is so true as in faith we bind ourselves, indeed yoke ourselves to Christ, who is always there with us… even when we don't realize it. People used to puzzle over "Where's Waldo" to find the elusive Waldo in a vast picture image; similarly, I commend you to look at the picture of your life closely, and you will find Christ there, never far from you.

From Conception. It is interesting that these days, the idea of a person being "independent" is touted as a valuable trait. We see this concept at work when we have to assemble something and we toss the directions aside, declaring, "I can do it myself." Then, 10 minutes later, we are asking, "What did I do with those directions?" In that same vein, independence is not a Christian value. In our faith, we are, none of us, independent… even though we like to think we are. We are dependent on God for the gift of life and need his help throughout that life. And, as God did not stop creation with Adam, we are thus created to be dependent on one another and to help one another throughout life.

Help Me, Rhonda. To think oneself independent is folly, and it is a lie. In faith, none of us would want to be independent. We are dependent. One of the greatest gifts that we can have as Catholics, is to be able to —without shame or weakness— say we are dependent: We are dependent on God ("help me, Lord") and on others (different for each of us though, as the Beach Boys may have expressed, "help me, Rhonda"). As Christians, we need to be able to shed our pride and be able to stop and say, "Hey, I need help." We usually refer to that moment of seeking help as a prayer. Conversely, we need to be aware of others who are dependent on us when they need help. We need to be able to look at the Cross and say, "I am not alone in this world, and I do not want to be alone. I am dependent on the grace of God, this day and every day of my life."

The Greatest Independence. And so, on Friday, on Independence Day, when we as a nation celebrated the political independence of our country, and on this Independence Day weekend and beyond, let us not forget that greatest independence of all is found in our freedom to be dependent on God for all we have and all we need. Let me be clear, dependence on the Lord is the greatest independence we can ever know. It is the yoke that Christ spoke of that is the key to our freedom. Placing the yoke of Christ on our shoulders is not a declaration of independence; rather, it is our declaration of dependence — on God. In truth, it is when we bind and yoke ourselves to Christ that we are the most free. Or as St. Paul says, "For if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Romans 8:13-14)

We Hold These Truths. This truth *of our dependence on God is famously referenced in our nation's Declaration of Independence which reads: "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."* Notice these words: The Creator has endowed us with rights and liberties; we got them from God! In other words, we are dependent on God, and that initial dependence is the foundation of our independence, as a people and a nation. We must never lose sight as a nation that that is part of what we celebrate on Independence Day and indeed on every day of our lives.

On this weekend of fireworks, make sure to let the fire of the Holy Spirit continue to fill you, for his fire works. God bless America.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lentini, Pastor