



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

June 18, 2023

Father's Day

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



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.



Summer Hours

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

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending June 4, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$27,215	\$26,500	\$715
YTD	\$1,303,623	\$1,337,500	(\$33,877)
Needs	\$1,942	\$1,604	\$338

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending June 4 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,084
Second Collection	\$864

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,

Before I get to the crux of this week's column (Part I of a two part column on the saint "14 Holy Helpers"), I want to deal with an issue arising here in Delaware regarding a life issue — or I should say, a life and death issue.

The Specter of Death. In Delaware we are again facing the specter of an assisted suicide bill — you know, another one of those laws that is designed to end a person's suffering by ending the person. Back in January, I wrote a column about the pernicious assisted suicide law in Canada that was enacted a few years back to address only the most serious terminal cases of suffering. That narrow band of eligible cases has widened in recent year to include mental health issues. That slippery slope in Canada provides for us in Delaware a cautionary tale on this matter.

The Slippery Slope. And of course, that slippery slope was pretty darn slippery. And in short order, with their assisted suicide law, Canada experienced — and mind you this is just a very small sampling of concerning matters —

Roger Foley of London, Ontario, age 42, who recorded two hospital staffers suggesting euthanasia to him as a remedy for the inadequate housing he was being offered for when he'd leave the hospital.

Alan Nichols of British Columbia who applied to be euthanized. His application for euthanasia listed only one health condition as the reason for his request to die: hearing loss. He received the requisite approvals, and he was put to death at a local hospital by lethal injection.

A Canadian veteran reported that a Veteran Affairs case-worker offered to him assisted suicide as an alternative to treatment for PTSD.

Another Canadian veteran was offered assisted suicide as an alternative in lieu of needing to get a wheelchair ramp.

In April 2022, two Canadian women applied to be euthanized because they could not find housing that was acceptable for their intolerance to smoke, air fresheners and cleansers. One has already be put to death.

Then there was 2021 case of Donna Duncan of British Columbia, who suffered from post concussion issues after a car accident, leading to depression. She requested assisted suicide and was approved for it, in lieu of other mental health treatment. She was put to death on October 29, 2021.

Euthanasia: The Activity Book. On top of this, the Canadian government has put out aa medical assistance in dying children's "activity book" to explain about assisted suicide to youngsters. Described as being for children ages 6–12, in it, the child is taught how a person is killed

during euthanasia; it features writing prompts and drawing activities.

Regarding the Poor. On top of that, a 2021 poll found out that nearly 30% of Canadians approved of assisted suicide for a person whose only "affliction" was poverty. Nearly the same percentage approved of assisted suicide for a person whose only "affliction" was homelessness.

The Camel's Nose. Let's use Canada's experience as a cautionary tale. This is the door that will open in Delaware if an assisted suicide bill becomes law — forget the protections in the law, and the limitations asserted ... the very passage of the bill is the camel's nose under the tent, just as it was originally in Canada. Remember, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church wisely teaches: "It is God who remains the sovereign Master of life. We are obliged to accept life gratefully and preserve it for his honor and the salvation of our souls. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of." (#2280)

To find out more about Catholic teachings on this matter, please go to: www.usccb.org/prolife/assisted-suicide-euthanasia

A Super Team: The 14 Holy Helpers. During difficult times people turn strongly to their faith. And one specific devotional path in prayer is to seek the intercession of a group of saints called "The 14 Holy Helpers," — most of whom were saints that had been martyrs in the early Church. The group of 14 Holy Helpers was to the faith, what The Avengers and The Justice League are to Marvel and DC Comics: a super team devoted to doing good. These 14 Holy Helpers were turned to, in prayer, by Catholics during times of great trial, stress and tribulation.

Helpers in Need. The devotion to this team of 14 saints, grouped as the Holy Helpers, started in Germany at the time of the great plague. In the German areas of Europe, these 14 were called the "Nothelfer," meaning "helpers in need." As the plague spread, devotion to the Holy Helpers also spread — not just in Europe, but later, throughout the world. It's connection to the plague faded in time, but the devotion to this powerful team of saintly intercessors did not. Ultimately, Pope Nicholas V affirmed this devotion granted to it special indulgences. In a Missal used at Mass in the late 15th century it stated:

"The Mass of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, approved by Pope Nicholas ... it is powerful on their behalf,

(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

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest members:



- Fidadelfo S. Chilel Ramos, Floericelda Reynoso Domingo, Mariolita Macario Reynoso and Jordi and Alison
- Chilel Reynoso
- Jack and Catherine Geohegan
- Jason, Charity and Adelyn Rash and Sean M Nagyski
- Emilio, Billi Jo, Lysander, Lanum Manzo and Jaisha Zayas

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest members who were recently baptized:



- Colin Matthew Erkins-VanValkenberg

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of the following loved ones who recently passed:



- Deacon H. Scott Peterson
- Walter Schroter

12TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JUNE 25)

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 20:10-13

The prophet lives in fear of his foes and calls on God's help.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 5:12-15

Adam's fall is redeemed by the life of Jesus.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:26-33

We are worth hundred of sparrows.

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.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITY

The Catechism In a Year

www.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/biyespanol-registration>

**MASS INTENTIONS
JUNE**

19 MONDAY
 HC 8:00 am Father's Day Novena

20 TUESDAY
 HC 8:00 am Father's Day Novena

21 WEDNESDAY
 HC 8:15 am Father's Day Novena

22 THURSDAY
 HC 8:00 am Father's Day Novena
 ICC 6:00 pm For the People

23 FRIDAY
 HC 8:00 am Father's Day Novena

24 SATURDAY
 HC 8 am Father's Day Novena
 HC 5:00 pm Barbara Casey

25 SUNDAY
 HC 7:30 am Mary McGlynn
 ICC 8:30 am Keith DeFrancesco
 HC 9:30 am Robert Waterbury, Jr.
 ICC 11:00 am James Deene
 HC 11:30 am Father's Day Novena
 ICC 1:00 pm For the People

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



HOLY CROSS JUNE 24/25, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

M. Mac-Leish
M. Miller

J. Salamone
P. Sheldon

G. Coyle
M. Coyle
L. Curley

LECTORS

F. Urick
V. Viddy

7:30 AM

R. O'Neill
R. Pritchett

M. Thompson
A. Wyllie

A. Costa
E. Costa
M. Costa

LECTORS

D. Kilby

9:30 AM

C. Jones
K. Kelly

S. Lascano
D. McGinnis

M. Milligan
A. Wilk
C. Wilk

LECTORS

T. Baurys
C. Petka

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez
E. Patoriza

M. Richard

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

B. Casey

LECTORS

K. Cairn

11:00 AM

J. Carrow

LECTORS

D. King

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 Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.



- SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
- MONDAY 11 am, 5 pm
- TUESDAY 5 am, 6 am, 5 pm, 8 pm
- WEDNESDAY 7 am
- SATURDAY 5 am, 11 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

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: stephenb_01@yahoo.com.

- Nuestro más sinceros agradecimiento a todas las personas que asistieron a las celebraciones de la Solemnidad de Corpus Christi. Hubo un promedio de cuarenta personas que asistieron a la novena y la procesión donde sacamos a Jesús Eucaristía alrededor de nuestra parroquia y Dios quiera para el próximo año por las calles de Dover. Qué manera más hermosa de comenzar el año del avivamiento Eucarístico.
- Felicitaciones a nuestros adolescentes que el fin de semana pasado, vivieron su retiro de sanación.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Escuela Bíblica de Verano:** Las inscripciones están abiertas para La Escuela Bíblica de Verano. Es un programa de 1 semana del 10-14 julio de 9:00 AM – 12 PM. Puede inscribirá su hijo (a) entre los 4-12 años de edad antes del 16 de junio. Los cupos son limitados.
- 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

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

July 10th-14th 2023, for kids ages PK4-6

9:00AM-12:00PM

Grades PK4-4 The overall goal of this program is to awaken the hearts and minds of kids to the beauty of God’s creation and the dignity of the human person. Kids will learn to discover, respect, protect, serve and celebrate life.



Grades 5th and 6th

This 1st year program is called SAINTS IN TRAINING Students will be training in 8 different virtues. This is an engaging Catholic program which will help anchor our 5th and 6th graders in their faith to help form our next generation of Saints!



To Register for either program please go to: <https://holycrossdover.org/about->

[us/headlines/6436-vacation-bible-school-2023](#) no later than June 16.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Registration for Confirmation 2024:

Forms for registering for Confirmation Preparation Classes may be found on the Holy Cross website under Teaching the Faith - Sacramental Preparation - Confirmation. Please return forms to the Religious Education Office no later than June 30, 2023.

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



Every great song performer has a signature song. The first couple of notes arouse a memory of some sort, one where you just can't help but sing along. A little toe tapping, fingers just start snapping, maybe a little dancing in place...you are moved by the lyrics, by the melody. And, even though the song might be recorded by another artist, the memory of the first rendition lingers. For example, Hello Dolly! Who else but the great Satchmo! Right? New York, New York; it's been re-done by many. But; who else but Frank Sinatra could give it the style, the same... panache? Oddly enough I am not a real fan of either of these two artists, but I will always attribute those two songs to those two performers, because no one else can pull it off quite like they could.

Several years ago, our school Mass choir had a signature piece. *Christ Be Our Light*, (Bernadette Farrell, composer) was the name of the hymn and I recall the beautiful sounds produced by the harmonies, the lovely blending of soprano and alto voices just brought such a peace to the soul. I remember the graduates singing *Christ Be Our Light* at their graduation that year. The best part of that memory is that it was the graduate's idea to offer that gift of song to the congregation as a gesture of thanksgiving.

Christ, be our hope! Christ, be our purpose! Christ, be our vision, radiant and bright! Christ, be our Way, shatt'ring our blindness Gifting us with your sight! Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts Shine through the darkness Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Last Friday we celebrated our last day of the school year with morning Mass. This Mass was a little different from our regularly scheduled weekly Mass because it was a school Mass. What does that mean? It means that only the school students and faculty were in attendance, along with a few parents. Our school Mass choir lead us in song and Mr. Michael Perza served as our accompanist. Our Pastor Father Lentini celebrated the Mass and delivered a thought-provoking homily in which he encouraged the students to "step up" to the challenges facing them in the next grade.

This past school year marked the first time where we literally took our show on the road. Mrs. Swartzentruber made all the arrangements for our Mass choir to travel to Wilmington to take part in An Evening of Sacred Music held annually at St. John the Beloved School. Proverbs 16:18 "Pride goes before the destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall." I am guilty of the haughty spirit because that evening the HCS Mass choir performed flawlessly, in my humble opinion. I, along with others were so impressed by their talent display that evening. I believe it could be said that this choir, also, has a signature piece. It was our Offertory song last Friday. *Servant Song* has for many years been a true favorite of mine. There a couple of renditions, but my favorite is the arrangement composed by Sr. Marie McGargill. Once again, under the directorship of Mrs. Swartzentruber, the meaningful lyrics and the impeccable melding of young voices in harmony during the refrain always bring tears. This past Friday was no exception. Brought on by the sadness of the end of another school year, the retirement of one of our veteran teachers, knowing how much I will miss the sweet faces of our children, and there I was with the tears! Are we listening to the words? My prayer for the choir, the students, the teachers, and the parents was that we always seek our God's will for us as we journey in life. To serve with a glad heart, to seek and to answer God's call.

And now I ask of you...will not you please read the words? It's a lovely piece, which brings peace to the heart. It is my hope that, you, too, will be able to hear them one day as they offer their gift of talent and song given them by God alone.

*What do you want of me, Lord? Where do you want me to serve you? Where can I sing your praises.
I am your song. Jesus, Jesus, you are the Lord. Jesus, Jesus, you are the way.
I hear you call my name, Lord, and I am moved within me. Your Spirit stirs my deepest self.
Sing your songs in me. Jesus, Jesus, you are my Lord Jesus, Jesus, you are the way..
You are the light in my darkness. You are my strength when I'm weary. You give me sight when I'm blinded.
Come see for me. Jesus, Jesus, you are my light. Jesus, Jesus, you are the way
I am your song and servant, Singing your praises like Mary. Surrendered to your spirit Let it be done to me!"
I hear you call my name Lord, and I am moved within me...."*

Please, may I change my direction here, entirely? I hope no one will mind. Holy Cross School is looking for a few good and able men and women to fill some very important and critical positions within our faculty and staff. I will bring greater light to our needs in following parish bulletin entries. I am acutely aware; discernment is hard. Is the Holy Spirit whispering something in your ear? Are you listening? Is there room for change in your life?

May I suggest you simply meditate on the lyrics....

*I am your song and servant,
Singing your praises like Mary.
Surrendered to your spirit
Let it be done to me!*

May God bless you abundantly in the summer season with joy and peace.

however so much one is in great illness or anguish or sadness, or in whatsoever tribulation a man shall be. It is powerful also on behalf of the imprisoned and detained, on behalf of merchants and pilgrims, for those that have been sentenced to die, for those who are at war, for women who are struggling in childbirth, or with a miscarriage, and for (the forgiveness of) sins, and for the dead.”

A Deciquartet of Saints. The feast of the Holy Helpers (no longer on the Church calendar as a memorial or feast,) is still celebrated in some places, usually on August 8. The opening prayer for the Mass on the feast of 14 Holy Helpers names each member of this deciquartet (yes, I made that word up) of saintly intercessors:

“Almighty and merciful God, who didst adorn Thy Saints George, Blase, Erasmus, Pantaleon, Vitus, Christopher, Denis, Cyriacus, Acacius, Eustace, Giles, Margaret, Barbara and Catherine with special privileges above all others, so that all who in their necessities implore their help, according to the grace of Thy promise, may attain the salutary effect of their pleading, grant to us, we beseech Thee, forgiveness of our sins, and with their merits interceding, deliver us from all adversities, and kindly hear our prayers.”

Fourteen Folks to Know. So, who are these 14 Holy Helpers whom I would commend that we should turn to in prayer during these tough times for the faithful? Well, some of them you may know already, and some are quite obscure. The following is a run down of this deciquartet (honestly, I think I’m going to get a trademark on that term) of saintly helpers who intercede for us in times trouble or need. These are the 14 Holy Helpers.

Saint George: Martyred under Roman Emperor Diocletian, he was a soldier in the Roman army. However, St. George got into a kerfuffle with the powers that be, when he refused to arrest Christians and offer sacrifices to Roman gods. He was cajoled and bribed to do so, but resisted. Ultimately, he was tortured and then executed for his offenses. He is a saint who is invoked against skin diseases and palsy.

Saint Blase: A side note, I love the way all word processors change this saints name from Blase to Blasé. And trust me, this saint is anything but blasé. But to appease my word processor, I will spell this saints name the traditional way: Blaise. End of problem. Another fourth century martyr, St. Blase was Bishop in Armenia during a time of Christian persecution, and was arrested for practicing his faith. While in prison, a mother with a son who had gotten a fishbone stuck in his throat visited St. Blase, who was her Bishop, and his blessing on her son. Upon blessing the boy, the bone dislodged and he was saved. The authorities continued to demand St. Blaise recant his faith in Christ; he refused. He was then tortured and beheaded for this offense. St. Blaise is invoked against diseases of the throat.

St. Erasmus: St. Erasmus (also known as St. Elmo, famously named in the title of the 80s brat-pack film “St. Elmo’s Fire”) was Bishop of Formia (half way between Rome and Naples). He served as a Bishop during the time of the Christian persecution led by the Roman Emperor Diocletian, in the early fourth century. For a while, he fled to Mount Lebanon to escape persecution; there, it is said, he was fed by a raven. He was found by the authorities and jailed, but he made multiple miraculous escapes with the help of an angel. He was tortured in the most brutal manner, and yet his wounds healed; he went on to die of natural causes (though deemed by the Church as a martyr by way of pious tradition). St. Erasmus is invoked by those suffering from stomach pains and disorders, and by women in labor.

The term St. Elmo’s Fire which derives from St. Erasmus, in addition to being a movie, describes the meteorological condition of bright flashing lightning but which is illusory. Perhaps that is saintly irony, because the flashing power of this great saint is certainly bright, but certainly not illusory. St. Elmo’s Fire — don’t see the movie (it’s pretty bad), but turn to the saint in prayer!

St. Pantaleon: Here we go again: St. Pantaleon is yet another early fourth century martyr persecuted under — you guessed it — Roman Emperor Diocletian. St. Pantaleon was the son of a rich pagan, but was raised a Christian by his mother with the help of a local priest. He went on to work as a physician to Emperor Maximianus. Some nefarious peers revealed to the Emperor that St. Pantaleon was a Christian. The Emperor told St. Pantaleon he would be spared if he worshipped the pagan gods of Rome; he refused and was tortured. He was attempted to be put to death many times, but each time, he was rescued from death by Christ, who appeared to him in the form of a priest. Ultimately, after he was better prepared for his death, he was beheaded. He is invoked as a patron saint of physicians and midwives.

We’ll stop here and pick up this column 14 Holy Helpers in the next bulletin, with the remaining 10 saints that compose the Holy Helpers.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor