



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 25, 2023

12th 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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"What I say to you in the darkness,
speak in the light;
what you hear whispered,
proclaim on the housetops."

-Matthew 10:27



HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

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

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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 11, 2023

| OFFERTORY TYPE | RECEIVED | BUDGETED/ NEEDED | DIFFERENCE |
|----------------|-------------|------------------|------------|
| Regular | \$28,596 | \$26,500 | \$2,096 |
| YTD | \$1,332,219 | \$1,364,000 | (\$31,781) |
| Needs | \$1,861 | \$1,604 | \$257 |

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending June 11, 2023

| OFFERTORY TYPE | RECEIVED |
|-------------------|----------|
| Regular | \$4,486 |
| Second Collection | \$437 |

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,

Last week's column was part I of a two part column about the saintly "Holy Helpers." In that column I gave background about these 14 holy saints, and gave saintly biographies (hagiographies) about the first four of the 14: St. George, St. Blase, St. Erasmus, and St. Pantaleon. This weeks column we cover the other 10 of the group: St. Vitus, St. Christopher, St. Dennis, St. Cyriacus, St. Acacius, St. Eustace, St. Giles, St. Margaret of Antioch, St. Barbara and St. Catherine of Alexandria. And away we go...

St. Vitus: Another early fourth century martyr persecuted by you-know-who, St. Vitus was born into a pagan family but converted to Christianity by the assistance of a nurse. It is said that good St. Vitus inspired many conversions and performed many miracles. This went over bad with the anti-Christian crowd. So, St. Vitus, the Christian nurse who converted him, and the nurse's husband, were ordered to be put to death. They were sent to be killed by lions in the Colosseum, but survived that ordeal. They were eventually put to death on the rack. St. Vitus is invoked against epilepsy, paralysis, and diseases of the nervous system. The name vitus means life, and you can invoke him against all those sickness he must be Dr. Ben Casey, Dr. Marcus Welby (both known to the older crowd) and Dr. Gregory House (for our younger crowd) all rolled into one!

St. Christopher: Something different: St. Christopher wasn't a fourth century martyr and wasn't persecuted by Emperor Diocletian. Also different: His name wasn't actually Christopher. Here's the story: He was a third century martyr originally called Reprobus. Not only was he a pagan, but he specifically pledged his service to a certain pagan king and to Satan. Yep, Satan — yes, he pledged his allegiance to that double-dealing devious Devil, that larcenous Lucifer, that sordid and scrofulous serpent and that tendentious trafficker of temptation. That is who Reprobus cast his lot with! Hence from the name Reprobus we get the word "reprobate" meaning one who is morally corrupt.

So, how did this guy get into the saint books? Well, Reprobus originally wanted to serve the greatest king. So, he went to the king of his local kingdom, but in the course of their encounter he found that this king feared the Devil. So, Reprobus assumed that the Devil was a greater king. But then he learned that the Devil feared the cross... and he learned about the Cross of Christ, and that Christ was the King of Kings. Learning this, he gave up his reprobate ways, and with the help of a Monk, converted to Christianity.

Reprobus, who tradition says was 7'5" tall, was called on to use his strength to help carry folks across a raging stream that had no bridge. Once he was carrying a child who revealed himself as Christ, and declared that hereafter Reprobus would be called "Christopher" (a name

meaning Christ-bearer). Inspired, St. Christopher then began to evangelize and converted thousands. The Emperor Decius, who fiercely hated Christians, had Christopher arrested, and later beheaded, around the year 250. He is invoked against epilepsy and toothache, and is the patron saint of a holy death. It is good that St. Christopher was over seven-feet tall, because his conversion from the dark side to Christianity was a tall order!

St. Denis: St. Denis was the a Bishop of Paris in Gaul (modern day France) and a third century martyr. He was a missionary on fire with the Holy Spirit, and he eventually came to France, where he became Bishop. It was also where he was beheaded on Montmartre (Mount of Martyrs) — a site so-called because so very many early Christians were martyred there for their faith. It is said that St. Denis was seen walking the street of Paris carrying his own head in his hands; he walked four miles holding his head, which delivered a sermon, before finally collapsing and dying. In my book, this saint go to the head of the class! He is invoked against demonic attacks.

St. Cyriacus: St. Cyriacus, was a fourth century deacon-martyr who was actually well liked by that nefarious Roman Emperor Diocletian. How can this be? Didn't Diocletian hate hate hate Christians and want them dead? So, how is it that St. Cyriacus was spared? Because he cured the Emperor's dying daughter in the name of Jesus — for this the usually blood-thirsty emperor was very grateful. And, in spite of St. Cyriacus' Christianity, he was spared.

"Hold on," you might say. "Didn't you say that St. Cyriacus was deacon-martyr? If Diocletian liked him and spared him, how did he become a martyr. As radio personality Paul Harvey might have said back in the day: And now, here's the rest of the story. Alas poor St. Cyriacus, as following the death of Emperor Diocletian, his successor was Emperor Maximinus. Maximinus held no particular partiality for St. Cyriacus. Thus, when St. Cyriacus refused to renounce his faith in Christ, Maximinus imprisoned him, had him tortured on the rack and then beheaded. He is one the several patron saints of those who suffer from diseases of the eye.

St. Acacius: A fourth century martyr under Roman Emperor Galerius, St. Acacius was a captain in the Roman army. One day the voice of God came to him, "Call on the help of the God of Christians." St. Acacius obeyed the voice, and then immediately sought and received Baptism. He then set out to convert his fellow soldiers in the Roman army, and denounced the Roman Emperor. This went over

(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:

- Ann Geise



CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, July 1st, tune-in to hear an interview with Deacon Matthew Newsome, author of the new book, "The Devout Life: A Modern Guide to Practical Holiness with St. Francis de Sales." 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.

FIRST SATURDAY MASS

First Saturday Mass will be celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Shrine at Old Bohemia Mission on Saturday, July 1 at 11:00 AM. Fr. Richard Nichols, SJ will be the presider. Fr. Nichols is a chaplain at MedStar Georgetown Hospital, a not-for-profit, acute-care, teaching, and research hospital in Washington, DC founded on the Jesuit principle of caring for the whole person. Confessions will be heard 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. 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.

13TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (JULY 2)

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

The prophet Elisha receives hospitality and repays it with the promise of new life.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 6:3-4, 8-11

By baptism, we come to share in the divine life of Christ.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 10:37:42

To be worthy of Christ, we must take up our cross and follow him.

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/biy-espanol-registration>

**MASS INTENTIONS
JUNE/JULY**

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

27 TUESDAY
 HC 8:00 am John Gregg

28 WEDNESDAY
 HC 8:15 am Pasquale and Gloria Lentini

29 THURSDAY
 HC 8:00 am John Dyba
 ICC 6:00 pm For the People

30 FRIDAY
 HC 8:00 am Bonnie A. Loughran

1 SATURDAY
 HC 8 am Jonathan Roumie (LI)
 HC 5:00 pm Gene & Patrick Northcutt

2 SUNDAY
 HC 7:30 am Sylvia Crews
 ICC 8:30 am Bernard & Eileen Thompson Family
 HC 9:30 am Thomas Masino
 ICC 11:00 am Dave Schepens
 HC 11:30 am For Poor Souls in Purgatory
 ICC 1:00 pm For the People

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



JULY 1/2, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

J. Bieker M. Casey
C. Bugglin J. Clendaniel

L. Curley
B. Richardson
L. Richardson

LECTORS

J. Davis
D. Dixon

7:30 AM

L. Bradford J. Chadler
C. Brown T. Dinan

A. Costa
E. Costa
M. Costa

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM

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

K. Fernandez
J. Novack
J. Novack

LECTORS

T. Baurys
J. Coffield

11:30 AM

C. Garcia A. Luna
B. Guzman

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

J. Moore

LECTORS

T. Thompson

11:00 AM

G. Taraila

LECTORS

L. Soule

1:00 PM

TBD

Homebound Ministry at Holy Cross
Needs Your Help

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

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)



Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday We have openings where you can spend quality time with Our Lord. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

- SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
- MONDAY 3 pm, 5 pm
- TUESDAY 5 am, 6 am, 5 pm, 8 pm
- WEDNESDAY 7 am
- SATURDAY 5 am, 10 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.

- 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, Josr Cruz Perez y su esposa Mireya Rodríguez .
- 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. Inscríbase 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.
- Educación Religiosa: Inscriba a su niño para la Educación Religiosa que ya están abiertas. Si su hijo(a) no está asistiendo a una escuela católica debe de inscribirse en Las aplicaciones están en línea y el 21 de mayo estarán llenando inscripciones después de la misa.

ICC

- Educación Religiosa: Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa para el año escolar 2023-2024 ya están abiertas. Inscriba a sus hijos ahora, para que podamos planificar en consecuencia. Las tarifas son de \$50 por 1 niño, \$100 por 2 niños, \$150 por 3 niños y \$180 por más de 4 niños. Después del 1 de julio habrá una tarifa adicional de \$10 por niño. Las clases comienzan el domingo 24 de septiembre de 2023.
- Se necesitan voluntarios. Si usted o alguien que conoce está interesado en ser voluntario, ser un líder de pares para la Educación Religiosa o la Preparación para la Confirmación, comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti @ dre@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.

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.

Please pray for our young people and chaperones this week as they serve the community of Drexel Hill, PA at Catholic Heart Work Camp.

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@iccmaryl.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.



We are meeting with all staff/volunteers for Vacation Bible School.

One evening and one day is for staff/youth training. We will go over all information, hand out folders, and also do a short, but necessary training for all youth.

***Sunday, June 25th between 8:30 and 11 am Mass, in the office meeting room**

- **Monday, June 26th at 7pm, in the office meeting room**

Please pass this along to anyone you know that may want to help out. They need to contact me if they cannot attend. Training and meeting is required.

There are a few things I find difficult in this life. The difficulty lies in primarily in my distaste for having to tackle a particular task that creates the particular hardship. I often find ways to avert having to face the hardship, and find other ways around. In the spirit of brevity, I will simply list a few of the most distasteful tasks as far as I'm concerned.

- Housework. The funny thing is I don't mind scrubbing, but I detest vacuuming and dusting. I'll take a bucket of hot sudsy water, a couple of soft rags and one of those Magic Erasers any day over a Swiffer and a vacuum cleaner.
- Yardwork: I'll do it, but every bug imaginable seems to go flying in my face, or land in my hair. I have never looked good in a hat of any kind, so that's of no use, and once the temperature reaches a certain point, I am done.
- Exercise: I don't do it, and that's all there is to it.
- Baking: Another funny thing, I love preparing soups, stews, casseroles or any recipe involving chopping (I find chopping vegetables very relaxing) or preparing ingredients to go into one pot. But, having all the bowls, measuring devices, flour, sugar, spices, eggs, baking powder/soda all over the counter? Oh my....no thanks. And then there is always the cleanup!
- Limiting my consumption of Old Bay Cheese Curls: I can't do it, so I simply don't buy them.
- Summertime: I don't like it at all. There are no kids, no life in school buildings, there's no real relief from the humidity, and then it's always the time that presents one of the most difficult and challenging hardship in my life; that of having to locate and hire personnel.

Unlike exercise and cheese curls, I cannot simply turn the blind-eye and avoid the challenges represented by the need for qualified school personnel.

Our dear friend, Mrs. Kowalczyk was the good and steadfast trooper who never minded the early hours of the morning and manned our Early Morning Room. Her good humor, her kind and loving way with the children before the crack of dawn was a Godsend to me. Mrs. K. is very good at wearing hats of all styles as she also served as our Librarian. Her cheerful demeanor led her to offering the off afternoons to After-Care and even a few hours in the TYO Room when the call went out for help. To lose Mrs. K. is a tremendous loss to Holy Cross.

So now, I send out another call for help. I am looking for another good and steadfast trooper who doesn't mind the early morning hour. Our Early Morning Room opens at 6:30 am, it closes with the first bell at 7:40 am. End of shift. The rest of the day is yours. Not a bad deal for the right person who doesn't mind waking up the rooster....

In this post-pandemic era, enrollment in Catholic schools has rebounded reaching record levels in some dioceses. Post-pandemic, nationwide Catholic school enrollment has increased from 1.63 million to 1.69 million representing a growth in excess of 3.5%, according to the NCEA. I am proud to say that HCS will attest to being a part of those impressive figures. As a result of our own increase in enrollment, we are adding a third section of kindergarten. All of this leads to the need for a good and qualified teacher for that classroom of sweet and adorable five-year-olds. In short, HCS is looking for a qualified kindergarten teacher who would like to work in a Catholic school where the environment allows for the free expression of the Catholic faith, and the privilege of laying the firm foundation on which to build a solid academic career.

We have also experienced a jump in enrollment numbers in junior high which necessitates the need for a sixth grade ELA, History and Religion teacher. It is truly a wonderful and happy problem to have, and we all hope and pray for increased enrollment---it's finding the most qualified, the one who hears and answers the call to teach in a Catholic school.

There are those times in life that are considered milestones. Many milestones are associated with our chosen profession. We all look to bettering our station in life, enjoying the rewards of achievement, and laying groundwork for the future.

Jeremiah 29:11 states: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. It is with that assurance that Mrs. Susan Crawford, following twenty-one years of dedicated service to HCS, has made the decision to retire from the classroom. Over her 21-year span, Mrs. Crawford has worked with students in the fifth through eighth grades, with the primary focus on the instruction of middle school Math. Her approach to teaching and reaching out to students at individual learning levels with the objective of preparing them for a successful, seamless transition into the high school math classroom is one that makes filling this position particularly demanding.

"It is clear that the chief end of mathematical study must be to make the students think." John Wesley Young, American Mathematician

Mrs. Bifferato has placed our needs on our social media sites, and Miss Dornberger has included the employment opportunities on the HC website. I have posted the employment needs on the Diocesan website. Several inquiries have come in. However, the gaping hole in the middle of the puzzle is the middle school math position. Are you the missing piece?

like a darts tournament in a balloon factory. The Emperor tortured St. Acacius, who refused to denounce his faith. He was beheaded in the year 311. Related to that death, St. Acacius is the patron saint of those who suffer from headaches.

St. Eustace: A second century martyr, persecuted under Roman Emperor Trajan, According to tradition, St. Eustace was a general in the army who converted to Christianity after a vision of a Crucifix appeared to him in-between the antlers of a deer that he was hunting. Seeing that image between the antlers of the deer, dare I say, must have stag-gered him. In any event, his whole family then converted Christianity. When this was found out, he and his wife were burned at the stake after refusing to participate in a pagan ceremony, and renounce their Christian faith. St. Eustace is invoked against fires.

St. Giles: Not a martyr, St. Giles was a seventh century monk who lived near Athens. Seeking a more contemplative setting he eventually retreated to the wilderness. There he went on to found a monastery under the rule of St. Benedict. He was a holy man to whom many miracles were ascribed. Giles died peacefully around the year of 712, and is invoked against crippling diseases.

St. Margaret of Antioch: Another early fourth century martyr persecuted by Roman Emperor Diocletian, St. Margaret was a convert to Christianity. This angered her family and her father disowned her. Thereafter, committed to Christ, she lived the life of a consecrated virgin. One day when a Roman spotted her and sought to make her his wife; she refused. This gave St. Margaret more problems than a math book — and ultimately, it landed her in court. The court ordered St. Margaret to denounce her faith or die. She refused. The court ordered that she be boiled alive. Miraculously she was spared from that fate, but eventually was beheaded. She is invoked as a patron of pregnant women and those suffering from kidney diseases.

St. Barbara: A third century martyr, St. Barbara is said to have been the daughter of a wealthy, pagan man who sought to keep Barbara from the world. One day, she confessed to him that she had converted to Christianity. Her father denounced her and turned her over to the local Roman authorities. It was then ordered that St. Barbara be beheaded. It is said that her own father did the beheading, after which he was struck by lightning. St. Barbara is invoked against fires and lightning storms.

A cautionary note: Though St. Barbara is a saint well-known in Catholicism her identity has been co-opted by practitioners of the pagan cultic religion “Santeria” (sometimes called Orisha-Voodoo) which worships false gods and dabbles in forces that no Christian should dabble in. With the onset of Christianity in parts of Africa and Latin America, pagan religions often syncretized their beliefs using Christian imagery. Two of the 14 Holy Helpers, that is, their images, have been mixed into Santeria: St. Barbara and St. Christopher. St. Barbara is used to represent Santeria’s “orisha” (or god) “Chango” who is the god of fire, thunder, and lightning, and who is invoked for revenge. Similarly St. Christopher is used to represent the false god Aganyu, god of the violence of the earth. Santeria often looks deceptively like Catholicism (they use rosaries, saint images, and other Catholic signs and symbol, etc.), but it is not. Though many practitioners of Santeria overlap that faith with Catholicism. Anytime I go into a house and see a statue of both St. Barbara and St. Christopher, I think to myself, “Uh oh!”

St. Catherine of Alexandria: An early fourth century martyr and daughter of the Queen of Egypt, St. Catherine converted to Christianity following the experience of a vision of Jesus and Mary. Her mother, the Queen, inspired by her daughter also converted to Christianity. When Roman Emperor Maximinus (who put the Holy Helper St. Cyriacus to death) started persecuting Christians in Egypt, St. Catherine openly opposed the Emperor and set out to prove to him that the Roman gods were false. She debated the Emperor’s best scholars — and by the end of the debate many of those scholars actually converted to Christianity as a result of her arguments. This did not go over well with the Emperor. St. Catherine was arrested, scourged, imprisoned, and later, beheaded. She is the patron saint of philosophers and young students.

So, these are the Holy Helpers — 14 in all — who we can turn to in the worst of times. They know our hearts, and they have likewise experienced pains and troubles in their own lives that moved them closer to the Lord. In times of difficulty, turn in prayers to these saint, and seek their intercession before God. They will be praying for you and with you.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor