

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 4, 2023

Holy Trinity

holycross

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

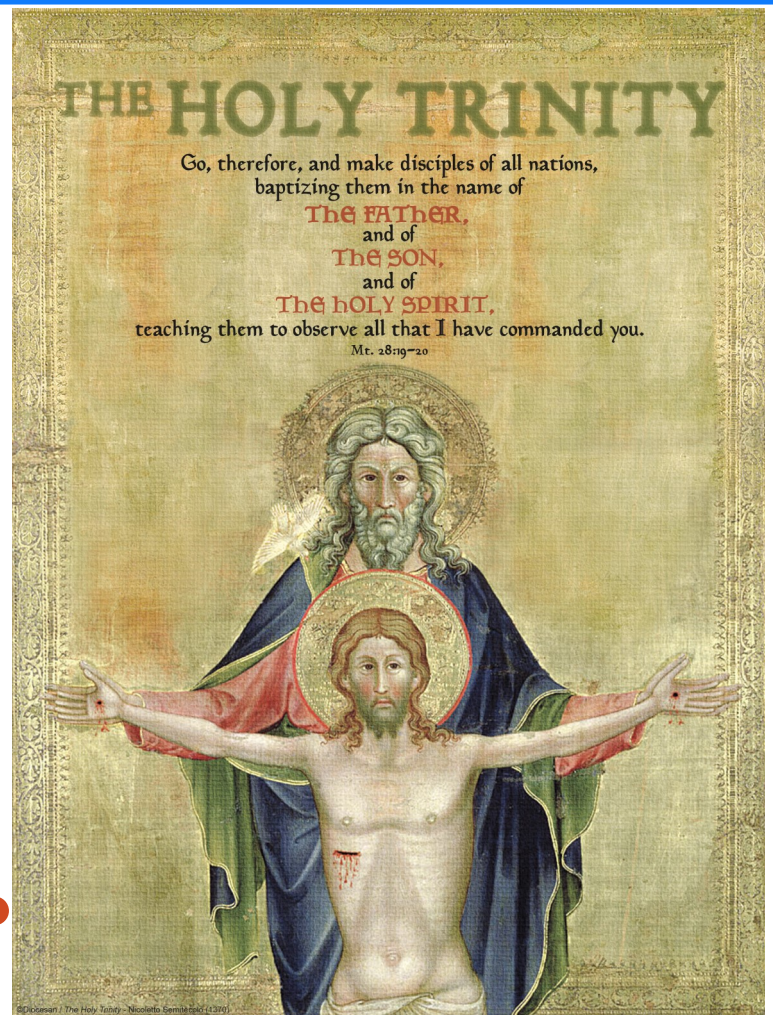
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



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.

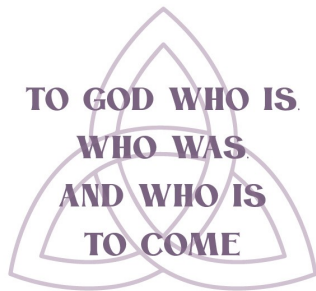
Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

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.



Next Sunday, June 11, is the Feast of Corpus Christi. Holy Cross will have a procession on the property in honor of Corpus Christi after the 11:30 AM Mass. All are encouraged and invited to join us as we honor the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Immaculate Conception will hold a procession on its property after the 1:00 pm Mass. All are welcome to join and process with us.



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending May 21, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$26,565	\$26,220	\$345
YTD	\$1,248,292	\$1,286,060	(\$37,768)
Needs	\$2,137	\$1,604	\$533

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending May 21, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,319
Second Collection	\$378

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,

As the Universal Church prepares to celebrate, on June 4, "The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity," (a.k.a. "Trinity Sunday") it would be in proper measure that this column be dedicated to the great mystery of our faith: The Most Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. In the practice of the Catholic faith, the faithful people of God, profess their faith by reciting the Nicene Creed. And when they do that, they say, "I believe in one God". The faithful then go on to pray "I believe" in "the Father, the almighty", in "the only Son of God" who is "God from God", and in "the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life". One might ask that if there is a "God the Father", "God the Son" and "God the Holy Spirit," isn't that three Gods? That is a great question and FYI, the answer is no.

Trinity College. Time to get an education in Trinity! 1968, Buffalo Springfield famously sang, "There's something happening here, what it is ain't exactly clear." While they weren't speaking of the Trinity, they could have been. The Trinity is one of the deepest and hardest to grasp truths of our Catholic faith. Much has been written on the subject, but it doesn't even scratch the surface.

Not Something to Trifle With! So, what do we know? Well, the Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that "[The Trinity] is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the 'hierarchy of the truths of faith.'" In other words, the Trinity is big stuff in our faith. It is not an add-on; it is not a nice-sounding platitude; and it is not something to be trifled with. The Church has a lot to say about the Trinity and while it might not be the most exciting reading, I commend reading the Catechism of the Catholic Church #232-267, which sheds light on our belief about the Holy Trinity, and the nature of God.

Of the Trinity and Game of Thrones. In its explanation and understanding of the Trinity, the Church has taught from the very beginning that there is one God in three Divine Persons. You might very well say these numbers do not make any sense – how can one be three and how can three-be-one? The problem for us is that when we go down the route of "three vs. one," and "one vs. three" we are trying to do math (by which any explanation of this would be impossible) when in fact we should be doing metaphysics – which is the study of things beyond the physical world. But, without studying metaphysics in depth, how is one to understand this great mystery? Well, the cheat-answer to all of this is to simply ponder the Trinity, say "oh, it is a mystery" and then go back to binge-watching "Game of Thrones" on HBO. But that is, in fact, a really lazy way to go.

How Revealing! We cannot simply let this matter go unanswered. Yes, the Trinity is a mystery – a mystery that could not have been known by human reason unless it was revealed to us (as Christ did). But, that does not mean that it is something unreasonable or illogical; rather, it is something we can't fully comprehend because of our human limitations. The simplest way I have heard is put is that the Trinity is not something we know nothing about, but it is something we cannot know everything about. But let's talk about what we can and do know about the Trinity.

Down at our Rendezvous, Three's Company, Too! Let's start with the basic point the Church teaches about God: God is the Supreme Being and there is one God in three Divine Persons. This requires some critical thinking: so, let's doff our regular hats and put on our metaphysical thinking caps. Are they in place? Okay. Now, we can start learning about the Trinity by understanding the basic terms at hand.

You've Got Person-ality. We can begin with the idea of word "being" (e.g. God is the supreme being, I am a human being) and the word "person." There is a difference between "being" and "person": the term "Being" answers the question "What?" while the term "Person" answers the question "Who?" For example, pointing to someone's mother, the question "What is she?" is answered with, "A human being." The question of "Who is she?" is answered with, for example, "Susie." Now, while all persons are beings, not all beings are persons.

Boo Who? For example, you are one being and one person, but a dog is one type of being but zero persons. Thus, in the 1970s song "Me and You and a dog Named Boo" – me and you are persons, that dog named Boo is not (boo-hoo). It is because of this understanding that for the better part of a millennium-plus, in English, the "personal" pronouns "he" and "she" were reserved for persons, whereas animals -- not fit to use the same pronoun used for God ("He") -- were referred to as "it". This distinction and understanding of "persons" emanates from the Catholic teaching that "person" always has to do with relation. So, for the Supreme Being (God) it is the relation within the Trinity that distinguishes the persons (who they are), for human

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F.
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn
Rev. Brennan Ferris

Pastor
Pastor Emeritus
Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

Mr. Philip Belt
Mr. John Harvey
Mr. Richard Kosior
Mr. Robert McMullen
Mr. Vincent Pisano

Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
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

ATTENTION SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS:



Do you enjoy listening or singing contemporary Praise and Worship music as performed by musicians such as MercyMe or Matt Redman? If you do, we are exploring the formation of a Praise choir which will be open to all teens and adults alike. You are invited to attend an interest meeting following the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, June 10. Stop by the choir room to get more information and details.

GRADUATION

Dear Parishioners,

A great big congratulations to all our Class of 2023 Holy Cross eighth-graders on graduating this past Friday. While we will miss this energetic and thoughtful bunch of students, we send them our blessings, prayers, and best wishes as they journey on from Holy Cross School to their high school years and beyond.

On behalf of myself, Fr. Ferris, our Deacons, our Parish and School staff, and most especially our wonderful teachers, we bid a fond adieu to the Holy Cross Class of 2023 as their time as Holy Cross Crusaders winds down, and we wish them nothing but the best in the future. May God bless them always!

Fr. James Lentini

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest members:

- Sarah and Paige Daly
- Don and Mary Kneedler
- Sean, Allison, Graham and Brooks Sealund
- Graham, Michelle, Brianna and Liam O'Reilly
- Andrew, Brianna, and Valentina Mangione
- Milton A. Lopez-Chilel and Heyser Y. and Ariany A. Lopez Mejia
- Darlene and Kane Riley
- Cassidy Glatz
- John Nicholas Marchese

CORPUS CHRISTI (JUNE 11)

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 8:2-3, 14-16

Moses asks the people to remember how God saved them from slavery in Egypt and fed them in the desert with the bread-like manna.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIAN 10:16-17

The bread we break in the Eucharist forms us into one body.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:51-58

The living bread that Jesus gives his faithful people in his flesh, and it bestows on us eternal life.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY NEWS

The pre-summer clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, June 10th. All decorations and potted plants will be removed as well as any planted flowers and plants. Families are asked to remove items they wish to retain. As a reminder, seasonal artificial flowers are always permitted; however, plantings of any kind are not permitted. Thank you for your continued cooperation. Cemetery Rules & Regulations are available at the parish office and at www.holycrossdover.org/introducing/cemetery

RETROUVILLE

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

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, June 10th, tune-in to hear an interview with Ruthie Coutinho, founder of PWYCM, Parents with Young Children Ministry, a Catholic based group for families to come together in fellowship. 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. You can see videos of select interviews at YouTube.com/DioceseofWilm. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [@CatholicForum](http://facebook.com/CatholicForum).

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**

5 MONDAY HC 8:00 am	Albert Baca
6 TUESDAY HC 8:00 am	Karen Berrgmann
7 WEDNESDAY HC 8:15 am	Gerri Rose
8 THURSDAY HC 8:00 am ICC 6:00 pm	Claire Zaragoza For the People
9 FRIDAY HC 8:00 am	Eileen Burnett
10 SATURDAY HC 8 am HC 5:00 pm	Claire Zaragoza Mary C. Stiller
11 SUNDAY HC 7:30 am ICC 8:30 am HC 9:30 am ICC 11:00 am HC 11:30 am ICC 1:00 pm	Bill Mihaltse Blanche M. Smith Josephine V. Kowalczyk Keith DeFrancesco Teresa Randazzo For the People

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



HOLY CROSS JUNE 10/11, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM D. Darling L. Darling D. Field P. Gerard A. Costa E. Costa M. Costa

LECTORS

L. Christiansen F. Urick

7:30 AM R. O'Neill J. Denney A. Fischer J. Fischer T. Catipay E. Wadhams

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM P. Ford C. Robinson B. Whitworth R. Wiley C. Imhof J. Seeney W. Shuron

LECTORS

S. Crossen S. Ford

11:30 AM T. Hernandez E. Patoriza M. Richard TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM S. Bell

LECTORS

B. Thompson

11:00 AM F, Cristiano

LECTORS

S. Tucker

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.

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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The National Junior Honor Society would like to reach out and thank everyone for giving up part of your Saturday to help our Holy Cross Odyssey of the Mind team in their endeavors to attend the Worlds in Michigan! Despite the misty and drizzling rain, you all were fantastic to endure the weather providing us with vehicles to wash. Without you, this would not have been the success it was!

- Este domingo celebramos la Solemnidad de la Santísima Trinidad y el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica nos dice que la Trinidad es el misterio central de la fe cristiana. “Es el misterio de Dios en sí mismo” (Núm. 234). Dios se nos ha revelado a sí mismo como Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo. Él es tres personas en un solo Dios. Los tres puntos principales de la enseñanza de la Iglesia son: La Trinidad es Una — “No confesamos tres dioses, sino un solo Dios en tres personas... Las personas divinas no se reparten la única divinidad, sino que cada una de ellas es enteramente Dios...” (Núm. 253).
- 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. Por esta razón se les invita a todos a la novena de Corpus Christi comenzando el viernes antes de la Solemnidad de la Santísima Trinidad 2 de junio a las 7:00pm en la capilla del Santísimo. Hasta el día sábado antes de la Solemnidad de Corpus Christi 10 de junio y culminaremos el día 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@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. Come out and join us; 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>

Registration is due no later than June 16th – Registration is limited! If you have any questions,

please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

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.

CATHOLIC HEART CAMP IN DOVER

Catholic Heart Camp will be coming to Holy Cross from June 19 to June 22. Anyone who needs assistance with painting, yard work, light repairs, etc., please call Linda Darling at 302-674-5787, ext. 123, or email her at ldarling@holycrossdover.org.

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!

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

It is in the waiting where I find the most difficulty. I know and have faith that God will provide for our every need. I know that. It has been proven to me time after time. I'd like to have just five cents for every time I've said "I know God has a plan, I just wish he'd let me know what it is!" It is in the waiting....

And then there are the times when God fulfills a need before I even have a chance to pray for it. Like the day when Mr. Stephen Devenney, father of one of our students called me and asked if I would mind if he presented for the faculty and staff a mini course on CPR and use of the AED machines. It was during one of our Level Coordinator meetings that this very suggestion was made. Immediately taking Mr. Devenney up on his offer, we made arrangements to meet. It was during our discussion that I learned that in addition to his full time job as a SWAT police officer and EMT in Philadelphia, Mr. Devenney also is the owner of Guardian Security Services. He has many hours in providing training for schools and businesses in emergency response training. He told me that at the end of our training day all would receive complete certification in CPR and use of our AED machines. And so it came to pass the day arrived for us to gather for our training. As it happened, Mr. Devenney came prepared to slip in a little training in the area of emergency response as well as in first-aid. Our faculty and staff members have received training in emergency response in the past, but the message and review of response techniques bear repetition.

We began our day with an in-depth discussion on employing the ALICE response to an intruder. As found on the ALICE-strategies website, "ALICE training empowers individuals to participate in their own survival using proactive, options-based response strategies in the face of violence. The program is designed to ensure anybody can employ the strategies."

- A ALERT** ALERT the local law enforcement agencies of an intruder on the premises
- L LOCKDOWN** LOCKDOWN for maximum safety for all on the premises
- I INFORM** INFORM local law enforcement in real time of all the details of the individual in clear and succinct language
- C COUNTER** COUNTER: When in close proximity to the violent intruder, create noise and movement, using distraction to reduce the shooter's ability to shoot accurately. Counter is not fighting. Counter focuses on distraction and control techniques that leverage strength in numbers and the element of surprise.
- E EVACUATE** EVACUATE the premises when safe to do so using any and all exit ways.

It is a difficult message to listen to. As I scanned the room, everyone was listening intently to the presentation, taking notes, and asking questions. Mr. Devenney proved himself a talented presenter in his ability to lighten the mood a little with a discerning humor and providing assurance that with three local law enforcement agencies nearby, as well as representatives of these agencies in our parent community that we are in good hands.

Switching gears, a bit, our next topic for discussion was First-Aid. We learned how to best respond and recognize symptoms of a heart attack, a stroke; and the best response to a victim of a seizure. We discussed the various forms of a seizure and how to recognize them. We also learned how to use a tourniquet to stop bleeding, as well as what to do in the event one isn't at the ready. A quick and safe response in coming to the aid of a choke victim, and the proper use of the Heimlich Maneuver was demonstrated and discussed. Finally, we learned how to correctly use an Epi pen. Many of our students have allergies and it is best that as teachers of these children that we are knowledgeable in the use of this instrument. A wealth of knowledge, Mr. Devenney had each of us in the palm of his hand as he responded to our questions as quickly as we could ask.

The final portion of the day was in the proper use of CPR and the correct use of the AED machines. There are four AED machines in our school, one in each of the buildings. New batteries are installed on a regular basis. The user of the machine is guided through the process by a friendly voice instructing the user through the step-by-step process until responders arrive on site. We were given the opportunity to try it for ourselves using the body dummies Mr. Devenney brought for demonstration purposes. Everyone was instructed in the proper administration of CPR. We began by learning the proper linking of fingers on both hands, and application of the hands, followed by the correct method for pumping the chest and use of oral resuscitation. We learned both the individual and team approach for resuscitating a victim. We were given instruction in the application of CPR to young children as well as infants.

Our teachers were grateful with one hundred percent saying that of all the training sessions we have had, this one was "the best." God always has a plan. We simply have to wait patiently for it to be revealed, or in the case with Mr. Devenney; all I had to do was answer the telephone!

beings, it is our rational soul and body that distinguishes persons (who I am, who you are). Since we are persons created in the image and likeness of God, we are each able to relate to God, person to Persons!

A Mark of Distinction. With this understanding, as regards the Trinity, what we can say about the Trinity? Unequivocally we can say, there is one Being, which is God, and that one Being is in three Persons: there is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is perfectly logical and right. However, if I were to say to you that there is one God who is three Gods, or one Person who is three persons—that would be illogical. But one Being and three Persons is not a contradiction, it is, in fact, a distinction. Thus, from this we can also say, with certainty, the Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Father or the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son. We also can say that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equal in majesty and that all are God, each is God and God is each. Yeah, like I said earlier, this is kind of dense. Perhaps a simpler way of putting it is that God is, in the theological sense, relational – the relation of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And the reason we use those names (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is that Christ used them and the Church faithfully transmitted what Christ handed-on – and they answer the question “who” very well, as identifying the persons of the Trinity. Who is God? He is the Father, He is the Son, and He is the Holy Spirit?

Of His and Heresies. People frequently have tried to muster a simpler explanation of the Trinity, finding the proper explanation too complicated. People have tried a bricolage of simpler explanations in the past and have fallen into the abyss of heresy (not a nice place to be). The most common shortcut explanation of the Trinity says that the Trinity is merely one God using three different modes. Heresy alert! This is not what the Catholic faith tells us. Saying that Trinity is one God in three “modes” or “three different faces of God” is the ancient heresy called modalism. Modalism is a heresy because it reduces God to a series of functions; it contradicts Scripture repeatedly and would imply that Christ, as God becoming man, was only a face of God – neither really God nor man at all.

If You Knew Susie... Think of it this way -- and since Father's Day is approaching, I'll address this to the men: if you are out with your wife and someone asks you “Who is that woman with you”, you might say, “She is my wonderful wife Susie!” I doubt very much that you would say -- nor would your wife appreciate you saying -- “She is a homemaker; she is a driver of our kids; and she is a cook.” I think your wife would cry “Heresy!” to say the least. That is the problem of modalism – it visits a series of roles or tasks as defining a person, when a person is by definition, more than the sum of what he/she does.

Complex Simplicity. In sum, while the Blessed Trinity is not the most energizing topic, and while at times it may seem semantic, it is, in fact fundamental to our understanding of God. Unlike other topics in the Catholic faith where we find many nuances or ways of expositing the Church's teachings, the Trinity – while as broad as all creation – finds us with limited ways and words to grasp its truth. St. Patrick, tradition tells us, used a shamrock to express the three-ness and one-ness of the Trinity. While this was an incomplete way to express a complex idea, it certainly gives us a good understanding of the oxymoronic “complex simplicity” of God. It shows us that God is complex enough that we cannot fully understand his Trinity, yet simple enough that we are able to accept, believe and follow God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Trinity) throughout our lives as our faith continues to seek understanding.

Mystery, He Wrote. So, when we explore this mystery of the Trinity, let's not treat it like a mystery on TV detective show. Sure, when you watch “Murder, She Wrote,” “Columbo” and any “Sherlock Holmes” movie, you expect the mystery to be solved. The Trinity isn't that type of mystery. The Most Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is a revealed truth, but it is a mystery, that cannot be fully understood. Or as I like to express it: The Trinity is a mystery to be pondered, not a mystery to be solved. It is in the pondering, prayer and reflection on the Most Holy Trinity of God that we can grow and be fulfilled in our awareness and understanding of God. It opens our eyes and nourishes our soul as we seek in faith something that is beyond our physical world, but not beyond our spiritual desire.

So, this Trinity Sunday, I commend you to ponder the Most Holy Trinity, and in doing so, draw closer to the knowledge and the love of God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor