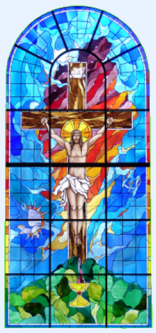


Church of the Holy Cross

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmarydel.org

Immaculate Conception

June 7, 2026 — **Corpus Christi**

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

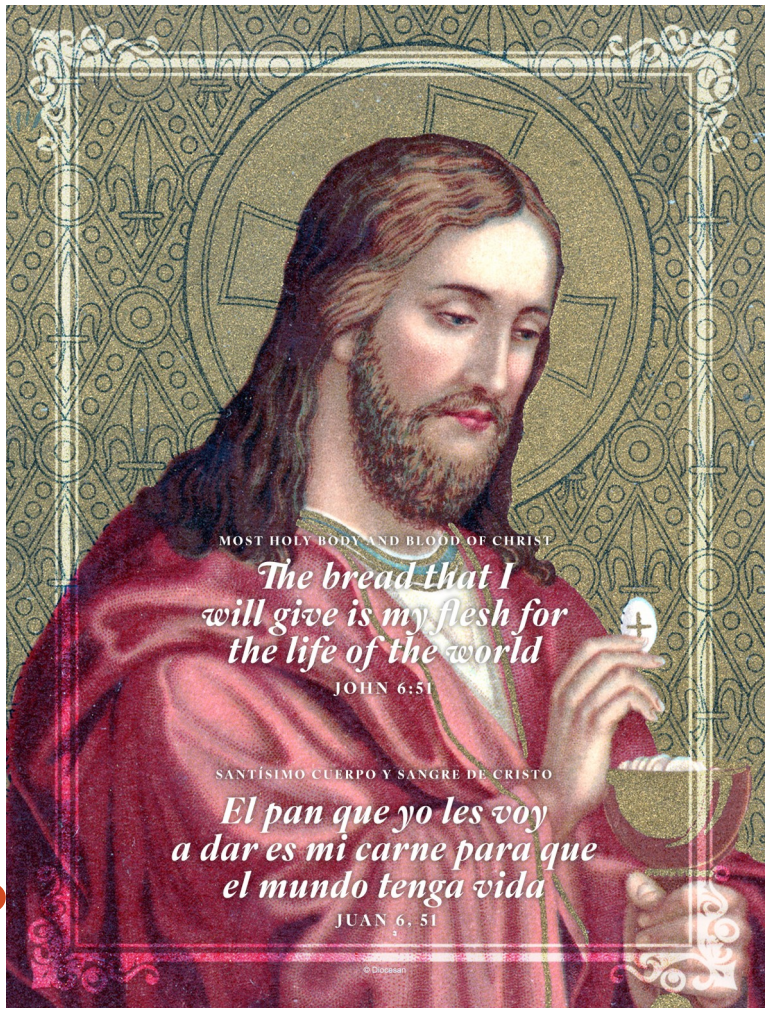
Adoration Chapel Hours
Daily, 5 am—9 pm

icc

Parish Office Hours
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-1 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

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

Daily Mass Schedule
Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



Holy Day Schedule (HC and ICC)
Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8

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

sacraments

Receiving the Sacraments

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

happenings

Counters Needed

If you have some spare time on Monday mornings, and would like to help the Parish Office count the donations that came during the weekend Masses, please call the Parish Office at 302-674-5787, ext. 110 to leave your name and contact information. We are hoping to establish several counting teams to help with this task each week.

O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage begins in St. Augustine, Florida just over a month from now!

The Wilmington leg of the Pilgrimage includes more than 7 events over the course of 24 hours on June 11th and 12th, traveling from Kent Island, MD, to Easton, MD, Georgetown, DE, to Ocean City, MD and ending at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Wilmington before handing off Jesus in the Eucharist to the Diocese of Camden. We invite all members of our Diocesan community to join us along the route and celebrate our Eucharistic faith as Jesus and the Perpetual Pilgrims pass through our Diocese. Registration for Diocesan events is encouraged but not required and will help parish and diocesan staff make adequate plans. Additional information is available at cdow.org/cabriniroute.

stewardship

Weekly Offering (HC)

Ending May 17, 2026

Offertory Type	Received	Budgeted/ Needed	Difference
Regular	$23,318	$27,250	($3,932)
YTD	$1,224,904	$1,227,810	($2,906)
Needs	$1,827	$1,738	$89

Weekly Offering (ICC)

Ending May 17, 2026

Offertory Type	Received
Regular	$4,375
Second	$689

Due to the bulletin being submitted early, new figures were not available . Figures will be updated in the next bulletin

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.

pastor's column

Dear Parishioners,

In last week's column, I wrote about heresies. In that column, I focused on several key heresies from the first and second millennia. This week's column will add to that list of major heresies. It will focus on those heresies that affect our world today and, indeed, its thinking the most. Specifically, those known to us but not always considered heresies.

So, what are the false teachings that continue to damage or distort the understanding of the truth that has been handed down to us by Scripture and Tradition? The list could be long, but I will limit it to just a few. To wit:

Sola Scriptura. A heretical tenet of Protestantism is "*Sola Scriptura*." What is *Sola Scriptura*? Roughly translated as "by Scripture alone," it is the belief that God has revealed himself to us solely through the written words of Scripture; it denies the Catholic (and Orthodox) belief that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are two streams of Divine Revelation that form a single deposit of faith. Sacred Scripture (the written word of God) and Sacred Tradition (that which has been handed down from the Apostles and pronounced through the Magisterium of the Catholic Church) are of equal value. So, when you talk about a Catholic teaching and someone asks, "Where does it say that in the Bible?" you need to tell that person that something doesn't have to be in the Bible to be part of our faith because we have the tradition of Tradition.

Let me put the problem of *Sola Scriptura* in an everyday context: your grandmother may write you letters; she may also visit or phone you to tell you things. Under the *Sola Scriptura* model, only the things she wrote to you in letter format count; anything she may have told you or shared with family members doesn't count. If your grandmother said she loved you, you'd have to hand her a Post-It note and tell her to write it down so it counts. The idea that God can only reveal Himself inerrantly in the written Word is problematic at best; it seems to limit God. So, to be clear, while most Protestants would describe faith as being "a religion of the Book," Catholicism is not "a religion of the Book." The Bible is good, inerrant in message, and a source of Divine Revelation — but it is only a source, not the only source.

Sola Scriptura Today: The reliance on Scripture alone, with Tradition and without the Church's authority as a final arbiter of meaning, fosters an individualistic approach to interpreting the Bible. That interpretation, done without historical, creedal, or magisterial boundaries, can lead to moral relativism. We observe this when different groups interpret biblical texts to justify prevailing cultural and social trends. We see this when some Christians quote Galatians 3:28, "…*there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus*," to claim that Christian doctrine is not incompatible with the idea of transgenderism. They cite this passage and say, "male and female don't really exist; they are just constructs." Or when some quote Matthew 7:1, "*Stop judging, that you may not be judged*," and use it to kabosh any conversation about moral accountability. Some folks quoting this passage tell us (wrongly) that this is Jesus telling us that pointing out sinful behavior is universally wrong (when in fact this passage was meant as a bulwark against hypocritical and self-righteous judgment, not all judgment — thus, Jesus advises later in that same passage that "the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you"). These two examples illustrate what happens when any scripture can be plucked out and assigned any meaning an individual wants, with no Church authority (i.e., the Magisterium) to correct it.

The Luciferian Heresy. Okay, this is a name I have crafted and laid upon a false teaching/belief. It refers to the false teaching, expressed by actions of Lucifer, that God is just an office, a title, and that someone else could be God. You will remember that Lucifer, the angel closest to God, caused a war in heaven as he sought to overthrow God and become God. The angels chose sides; the good angels won. St. Michael the Archangel then cast Lucifer (along with the other fallen angels) out of heaven and into hell. Thus, Lucifer (the Devil) will spend eternity never able to attain his goal of being God; he will be eternally unfulfilled— and that, my friend, is Hell, with a capital H. The truth, of course, is that "God" is not just an office or a title that someone else can hold; God is the great "I am" — He is the true Being, without whom nothing exists. So, in addition to being a real gavone, Lucifer also thought way too highly of himself.

The Luciferian Heresy Today: This is probably the heresy that many of us dabble in every day life when we try to be God, when we doubt God's plan for us, when we think we know better than God. Yes, this is not as dramatic as a war of the angels, but the underlying urge is similar. Our desire, at times, to think we know better than God, is different than Lucifer's designs, but only in degree. This heresy — this false belief — is, sadly, alive and well.

Islam (Mohammedanism). It can be rightly said that Mohammedanism, as expressed in the teachings of Islam, contains several false teachings that would qualify as heresies. I should note that there is a question about whether Mohammed himself was a heretic, given doubt about whether he was

(continued on page 10)

connections

HC & ICC Clergy

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. John Enemuo	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Rommel Padilla	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

HC Clergy

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

HC Staff

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Lilie Ramos	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I18
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger Cemetery	Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

Mailing Address

Church of the Holy Cross
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

ICC Staff

Parish Office	410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon	Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti	DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia	Bookkeeper
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

Mailing Address

Immaculate Conception Church
P. O. Box 399
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

Holy Cross School

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Mallory O'Mara	Principal, ext. 111

Mailing Address

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

faith in action

June 14—11th Sunday Ordinary Time

First Reading: Exodus 19:2-6

Moses assures the disobedient Israelites that they are God's treasured possession.

Second Reading: Romans 5:6-11

God loves us, despite our flaws. Jesus' sacrifice is our proof.

Gospel: Matthew 9:36—10:8

Jesus instructs the apostles to continue his work of loving people back to health and wholeness. Such transformations signaled the arrival of God's reign

Samaritan's Food Pantry

The Food Pantry is in need of the following: Canned Kidney, Black and Pinto Beans, peanut butter, jelly, hamburger helper, one pound bags of rice, Manwich, Cereal, Jell-O, Chicken Broth. These and small packs of meat or burger can be left in the pantry drop off door behind the rectory.

New Members

Welcome to those who recently registered at Holy Cross Parish:

- Matthew and Allison Patzek and Matthew Patzek Jr.
- Debra Madrid and Wilbert E. Melendez
- Nancy Chavez Rodriguez

Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of November 6-8, 2026. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with grief and loss from abortion or miscarriage. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Bernardo-Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by October

Saint Mark's High School Class of 1976 50th Class Reunion

Save the date: Sept. 25, 6-10 p.m.: Saint Mark's High School Class of 1976 50th Class Reunion, Christiana Hilton. Saint Mark's is also hosting a Welcome Home Celebration and tour of SMH for Class of 1976 Alumni

on Thursday, Sept. 24 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The reunion committee would like to connect with alumni. Contact Patty Curtin White at:
patriciacurn@comcast.net
or PCurtin@christianacare.org Or Terri Larson Seeman Glennsman@comcast.net (302) 893-3479.

Pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes

St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church is hosting a pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes with Barcelona - September 13-22, 2026. Join Fr. Volodymyr Klanichka and travel to two of the world's most revered pilgrimage sites. Experience the culture and beauty of Portugal, France, and Spain along the way! Double occupancy cost is $4,699 including airfare from Philadelphia and at least one meal each day.
For more information contact Fr. Volodymyr at Vovaklan@gmail.com or visit: https://groups.gocollette.com/en-US/link/1392151

Did You Know?
Without priests, there are No Sacraments!
There is an international group of Catholics who pray daily for priests, and we have a chapter here at Holy Cross, dedicated for our own priests, based on 7 women making a Holy Hour before our Eucharistic High Priest, Jesus, for one priest, every day, very week, for a whole year….hence called **the 7 Sisters Apostolate.** We would love to have you join this effort! **Contact 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com** to learn more!

Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites

Do you want to grow closer to Jesus? Do you want to deepen your interior life and imitate Our Lady? Do you think you may be called to a life of prayer as a lay person in the midst of the world? If you can answer "Yes!" to any of these questions, you are invited to visit the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, that meets at St. Jude The Apostle Church in Lewes, Delaware on the second Saturday of each month.
Learn more about the Carmelite Order, its role in the world, and the saints who made it happen. Discover if you may be called to follow St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Thérèse of Lisieux and the many other Carmelite saints by living hidden in the Heart of Christ for the sake of the Church and the world.
If you are a confirmed and practicing lay Catholic, at least 18 years old, and feel you would like to explore a vocation to the Order of Carmel as a Secular Carmelite, please contact John Kudlick, OCDS, 302-415-9731, or Lauriana Lundy, OCDS, 609-456-3086.
We look forward to meeting you!

Mass Intention
June

8 Monday
HC 8:00 am Lilian C. Ingangiola

9 Tuesday
HC 8:00 am Jacqueline Koniencki

10 Wednesday
HC 8:15 am Leslie Lae Winters

11 Thursday
HC 8:00 am Josephine V. Kowalczyk
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

12 Friday
HC 8:00 am Cono Scaffidi

13 Saturday
HC 8:00 am Steve Boas
HC 5:00 pm Caroline Prystagko

14 Sunday
HC 7:30 am Lynn Farley
ICC 8:30 am Calvin & Alma Smith
HC 9:30 am Catherine and Frank Lutz
ICC 11:00 am Keith DeFrancesco
HC 11:30 am Soul of Sudesh S. Rodrigues
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of parishioners of Holy Cross.
Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for Parishioners of Holy Cross.

June 13/14, 2026

	EMHC		Servers
5:00 PM	D. Darling L. Darling	D. Field S. Garber	V. Everett M. Rubino
			Lectors
			G. Murphy M. Phillips
7:30 AM	M. Thompson C. Brown	J. Davis J. Denney	J. Shevock S. Shevock
			Lectors
			A. Wylie
9:30 AM	J. Salamone M. Sossich	T. Arndt D. Banach	H. Louissaint G. Maddelena
			Lectors
			R. Alderman J. Amoako
11:30 AM	E. Pastoriza A. Luna	T. Hernandez	K. Geronimo S. Geronimo
			Lectors
			G. Hernandez M. Mendoza

Immaculate Conception

8:30 AM	J. Moore		
			Lectors
			K .Escalante
11:00 AM	J. Carrow		
			Lectors
			A. Poppiti

If you are interested in becoming a Lector, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, or an Altar Server, please all the Parish Office at Holy Cross. Leave your name and contact information.

As always, we can use more volunteers to become ministers to the sick and homebound. This ministry is growing daily and they so appreciate receiving Our Lord especially since they can't come to Mass. Sign up at the office if you are interested in learning more about this ministry.

Adoration Chapel

"Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us." The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the wellspring of grace. St. John Paul II, April 17, 2003

Open hours:
Sunday: 7-8am, 4-5pm, 5-6pm, 6-7pm, 7-8pm 8-9pm
Wednesday: 8-9pm **Thursday:** 8-9pm
Friday: 5-6pm
Saturday: 5-6am, 12-1pm, 1-2pm, 7-8pm 8-9pm

Please leave all candles lit, these candles will last 7 days. If candles are extinguished, they become difficult to light and break holders.
All Eucharistic ministers should use sanitizer (on rear table of the chapel) before holding the Host. Please contact John Murphy to sign up at jkm2015@verizon.net or call 302-233-1779

Habitat for Humanity

Find out ways to get involved with Habitat for Humanity. You can make a donation, volunteer on site. For more information: volunteer@centraldelawarehabitat.org

- **Solemnidad del Santísimo Cuerpo y Sangre de Cristo:** Esta fiesta honra a Jesucristo, verdaderamente y realmente presente substancialmente bajo las apariencias del pan y del vino. Esa Presencia ocurre gracias a un cambio que la Iglesia llama transubstanciación (cambio de sustancia), en el momento en que el sacerdote, durante la Consagración en la Misa, dice las palabras que el mismo Cristo pronunció sobre el pan y el vino: "Este es Mi Cuerpo", "Esta es Mi Sangre", "Hagan esto en memoria Mía". Tendremos nuestra tradicional procesión con Jesús Sacramentado, después de la misa en español. Se les pide a los niños que recibieron su Primera Comunión este año que por favor de poner sus vestido que usaron para tan grandioso día de recibir la presencia real de Jesús en la Eucaristía, Cuerpo, Sangre, Alma y Divinidad.
- **La Virgen Peregrina:** La Virgen Peregrina está visitando casas, si usted desea que la imagen de la virgen peregrina visite su casa por una semana, hable con nuestra hermana Marta Espinosa.
- Jesús te Invita a que pases una hora con El: Capilla de Adoración Eucarística: «Ven y pase una hora con Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento. Para anotarse llame a la oficina parroquial.
- **Educación Religiosa y La Escuela Bíblica de Verano:** Ya pronto van a estar abiertas las inscripciones.es muy importante que su hijo(a) asista a las clases de Educación Religiosa. La Oficina de Educación Religiosa se encuentra en el segundo piso del ELC. El horario habitual de oficina es de lunes a jueves, de 8:30 a. m. a 3:30 p. m.
- Las clases de educación religiosa se imparten en la Escuela Primaria Holy Cross Para más información comuníquese con: Sra. Tammy Korosec Coordinadora de Educación Religiosa email - tkorosec@holycrossdover.org o llame al 302.674.5787 ext 122
- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ**
- ¿Sabías que...? ¡Sin sacerdotes, No hay Sacramentos!
- Existe un grupo internacional de católicos que rezan diariamente por un sacerdote, y aquí en Holy Cross tenemos un grupo dedicado a nuestro propio sacerdote. Este grupo se basa en que siete mujeres hacen una Hora Santa ante nuestro Sumo Sacerdote Eucarístico, Jesús, por un sacerdote, todos los días, todas las semanas, durante todo un año… de ahí el nombre de Apostolado de las Siete Hermanitas. Nos encantaría que te unieras a esta iniciativa.
- Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com
- **Voluntarios:** Se necesitan catequistas para el año escolar 2026-2027º si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-Bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118.

PARROQUIA DE LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION- MARYDEL

Inscripciones para la Escuela Dominical: Ya se están recibiendo inscripciones para el próximo año. Por favor, inscriban a sus hijos ahora para asegurar su lugar en una clase aquí en la Inmaculada Concepción. Se necesitan catequistas para el año escolar 2026-2027. Si desean colaborar con la Educación Religiosa o con la Escuela Bíblica de Verano, por favor comuníquense con Alicia Poppiti al 410-482-8939 o a dre@iccmarydel.org

Ofrecemos clases desde septiembre hasta mayo. Se proporcionará capacitación y formación. Por favor, disciernan si esta es su manera de contribuir con la comunidad de la Iglesia.

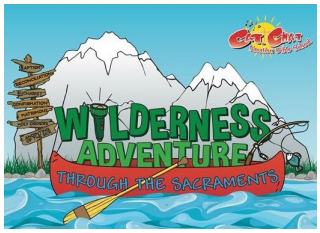
La Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones: Ya está en preparación. Se llevará a cabo del 3 al 7 de agosto. Pronto se anunciará la fecha de una reunión de planificación. Avísenles a Meg o a la Sra. Alicia si están interesados en colaborar este año. Nuestro tema será "Rainforest Falls" (Cascadas de la Selva Tropical). Si desean colaborar con la Educación Religiosa o con la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones, por favor comuníquense con Alicia Poppiti al 410-482-8939 o a dre@iccmarydel.org.

Voluntarios: Gracias a nuestros maravillosos y dedicados voluntarios —catequistas, asistentes— de este año en el programa de Educación Religiosa: Ayda, Shari, Janet, Meg, Katie, Brenda, Sofia, Vincent, Bricenia, Kathy, Glendy, Yuki, Horacio, Diane, Alan, Lori, Jimmy, Yimmy, Rosa, Luis, Maria, Ezequiel, Lauren, Linda y Terry.Se necesitan catequistas, asistentes y auxiliares para el año escolar 2026-2027. Se requieren para el nivel de Jardín de Infantes (Kindergarten), 5.º grado y asistentes para varios grados. Impartimos clases de septiembre a mayo. Se ofrece capacitación y formación. Por favor, disciernan si esta es su manera de retribuir a la comunidad de la Iglesia. Si tienen alguna pregunta, no duden en comunicarse con Alicia Poppiti al 410-482-8939 o a dre@iccmarydel.org

Religious Ed at Holy Cross

Registration for the 2026-27 Religious Education School Year is now open. Click on the QR Code to go to the website:

Registration open for the 2026-27 Vacation Bible School!



Click the QR Code for Registration information:

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

Adult Religious Education Classes

2026-27 Class – Beginning on September 8th

If you have any questions or would like to order the workbook set, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

Do you have a love for Jesus and a desire to share that with the next generation? Do you feel called to evangelization?

We are looking for a few good team members for our Holy Cross Religious Education program, Confirmation and Youth Ministry and the Holy Cross Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) team. No experience is needed, just a willing heart to be a witness to your faith to others! If interested, please email Tammy Korosec, Coordinator of Religious Education at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org with your contact information and area of interest. You may also call (302) 674-5787 X 122 with any questions.

Youth Ministry

Registration for Confirmation Preparation 2027: May be found on the church website under Confirmation 2027.

Catholic Heart Work Camp: We will be welcoming 200 teens and adults to Dover June 15 to the 18. We are looking for sites for them to help with yard work, painting, and light repairs. If you, or someone you know, could use a hand with items around your home, please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossdover.org.

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Religious Education at ICC

Vacation Bible School is in the works. "Rainforest Falls": August 3-August 7. A planning meeting was had and a training date will be set up. Let us know if you are interested in helping out. Let Meg or Ms. Alicia know if you are interested in helping out this year.

SRE: Registrations are being taken now for next year. Please get your children registered now to save their place in a class here at Immaculate Conception.

If you would like to assist with Religious Education or Vacation Bible School, please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmarydel.org

Catechists, assistants, and aids are needed for the 2026-2027 school year. Kindergarten, Grade 5 and assistants for several grades. We have classes from September -May. Training and formation provided. Please decern whether this is your way of giving back to the Church community. Any questions, please feel free to contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmarydel.org

Congratulations to Meg Haass being awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award for Immaculate Conception, and Katie Perez Galan and Kimberly Escalante Garcia for being awarded the St. Timothy Award for youth..

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin to close out another wonderful week in our school year, we are filled with gratitude as we reflect on the many special moments that took place throughout the week at Holy Cross.
On Monday, we held our final Field Day of the year. These days are always a highlight for our students and provide an opportunity for fun, teamwork, and fellowship. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mr. Speed for the tremendous amount of time and effort he dedicated to planning and organizing these events. We are also incredibly grateful to our parent volunteers. Your willingness to share your time and talents helps make events like these possible, and we truly appreciate your support.

On Tuesday, our eighth grade students celebrated their final day as Holy Cross students. We wanted this milestone to be especially meaningful, so we held a Crusader Walk through our campus. Our eighth graders made their way through each building and hallway one last time while students and staff lined the halls to cheer them on. It was a beautiful tribute to their years at Holy Cross and a reminder of the impact they have had on our school community. Following the walk, they enjoyed a final picnic together and spent time reflecting on the friendships and memories they have created throughout the years.

Thursday was filled with prayer, celebration, and gratitude as we gathered for both our Eighth Grade Awards Ceremony and Prayer Service and our Pre Kindergarten End of Year Prayer Service. One of the most touching moments of the day was the connection between our youngest and oldest students. Throughout the year, our Pre Kindergarten students and eighth graders have served as prayer buddies, attending Mass together, participating in activities, and building meaningful relationships. During the awards ceremony, the Pre Kindergarten students surprised their eighth grade buddies by singing "You've Got a Friend in Me." It was a heartfelt moment that beautifully demonstrated the bonds formed within our Holy Cross family. We are proud of all of our students who were recognized for their accomplishments and achievements.

Friday marked the final day of school for our Pre Kindergarten students. While it was difficult to say goodbye for the summer, the day was filled with smiles, laughter, hugs, and excitement for the adventures ahead.

That evening, we gathered together in our church for the Graduation Mass for the Class of 2026. It was a beautiful and prayerful celebration. Our graduates conducted themselves with reverence, dignity, and gratitude as they marked this important milestone. We could not be more proud of this remarkable group of young men and women. Throughout their time at Holy Cross, they have embodied our mission by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ, striving for academic excellence, and serving others with compassion and kindness. They have left a lasting legacy and have been wonderful role models for our younger students. While we will miss them greatly, we know they are prepared for the journey ahead and will continue to do great things in high school and beyond. They will always remain a cherished part of the Holy Cross family.
A special thank you to Ms. White and Ms. Riecks for their dedication and hard work in helping make graduation such a beautiful and memorable celebration. Congratulations once again to the Class of 2026.

Next week is our final week of school. We look forward to celebrating another successful year together as we finish report cards, hold our used uniform sale, gather in prayer, and reflect on the tremendous growth our students have made throughout the year.

As always, thank you for your continued support of Holy Cross. We look forward to closing out this school year together, rooted in faith and united in Christ.

Mrs. O'Mara

originally a Christian. If he wasn't a Christian, he himself can't be a heretic — but what he taught could be heretical (i.e., false teaching), and much of it was. Islam, the faith of Mohammed, teaches, among other things, that God is not a trinity (heresy) and that Christ is not God incarnate (heresy). More pointedly, Islamic tradition emphasizes that, through sincere repentance and adherence to Allah's rules, believers can secure heaven without a Savior. Pope John Paul II, in critiquing Islam for not recognizing the incarnation (God coming in the flesh), wrote that Islam "is not a religion of redemption. There is no room for the Cross and the Resurrection."

Islam (Mohammedanism) Today: Some false teachings within Islam have crept into certain strands of general, even Christian, religious thought. For example, the Islamic view of Jesus as a prophet, but not the Son of God (God in the Flesh), finds footing among many people today. If one holds that Jesus was just a prophet, then he is not God. That means he would not be part of the Trinity, and thus there is no Trinity (and, let's be honest, that would make making the Sign of the Cross quite difficult). Also, the Islamic idea that a Savior is not needed finds a foothold among members of the faithful when some start hubristically thinking they don't need God's grace to get through this life, that they can do it on their own. Spoiler alert: they can't.

Atheism. Atheism is the false teaching that denies the existence of a Supreme Being. Denying the existence of God, a heresy in itself, also leads down the path that would posit that man's existence is nothing more than a biological fluke and that all is random. The first Atheist was Diagoras of Melos, who lived in the 5th century B.C. He famously took a wooden statue of the Greek god Heracles, chopped it into kindling, made a fire with it, and boiled turnips for dinner. While I would be more upset at the prospect of having turnips for dinner (yuck), the folks in Athens rousted Diagoras from his home and exiled him.

Atheism Today. Atheism shows itself in many ways today. We see it in the fatalistic outlook that often afflicts our world today. This is the outgrowth of the logical conclusion of Atheism: if all is random, then life is meaningless. When one despairs and starts doubting God's presence, that person is treading on the bad waters of atheism. We also see atheism in the rise of things like assisted suicide and abortion, which sees man, not God, at the top of the food chain (i.e., if life belongs to us, not to God; then we can do what we want with it).

Secular Humanism. This is a tricky one, as Secular Humanism can be seen as just an outgrowth of Atheism or a repackaging of a Secular Modernism on the one hand, or as a distinct heresy (false teaching) on the other. Our common Christian Humanism is built around the incarnation of God as man in the person of Jesus Christ. Thus, we would say that human dignity, reason, and human potential are at their highest when aligned with God. Secular humanism is the false teaching that separates our humanity from God (hence, it is secular). Pope Benedict XVI described secular humanism as a "dictatorship of seemingly humanistic ideologies" that shuns God and Divine truth from public life. This separation of humanity from its Creator damages human dignity, leads to moral relativism, and, as Pope Benedict writes, builds "a dictatorship of relativism."

Secular Humanism Today. The number of examples of Secular Humanism are legion; they are many. Society's separation of morality from faith, which leads to a morality that is merely posited by the cultural flavor of the day, is a prime example. Throughout human history, morality was considered extrinsic (imposed by a higher authority and followed and enforced by man). But secular humanism sees any moral code as man's creation, subject to man's changing it. When a member of the faithful gloms onto this point of view, that person is falling into heresy. Secular humanism is seen today in the false assumption that one can lead a fully happy, productive, and meaningful life entirely without reference to God, or, as Pope John Paul II wrote, "When people think they possess the secret of a perfect social organization … politics then becomes a 'secular religion' which operates under the illusion of creating paradise in this world." To use a religious-themed book title from recent years: It renders "A Purpose Driven Life" (the purpose being to serve the Lord) into "A Self-Driven Life" (with everything aligned with the self and the human level). How positively not divine!

So, with these two columns, I hope I have provided the flock here with information and an overview of key heresies from the first millennium, the second millennium, and into the current millennium — and showing how some strands of them still remain with us, in some form, and sometimes quite subtly, even today.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lentini
Pastor