

# 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

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

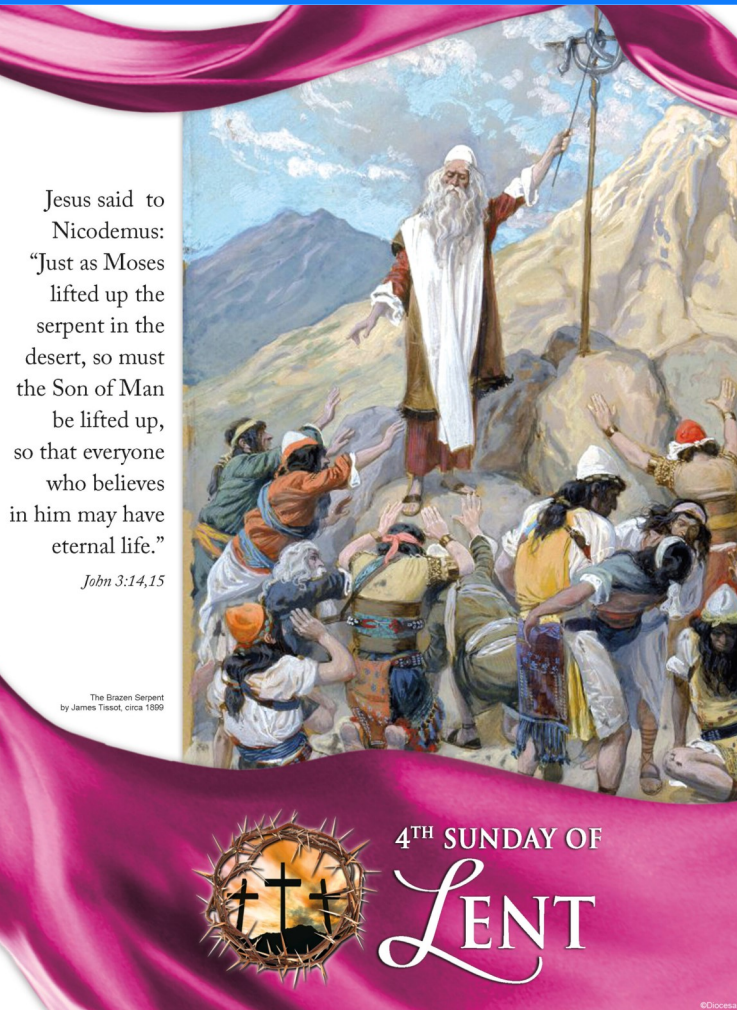
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am  
Wednesday – 8:15 am  
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,  
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



Jesus said to Nicodemus: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

*John 3:14,15*

The Brazen Serpent by James Tissot, circa 1890



4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF  
**LENT**

icc

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm  
Closed Wednesday and Friday

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

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

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

## 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.



Our third annual Reconciliation Monday will take place on Monday, March 25th from 3 until 8 p.m. Not only will we have confession here in our church during that time, but all parishes in the diocese will be holding confessions. So if it is more convenient for you to go to another church closer to work, feel free to do so. Please invite those friends and family members who have been away from the Sacraments to take advantage of this opportunity.



## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending February 25, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$26,849	\$26,180	\$669
YTD	\$942,968	\$947,380	(\$4,412)
Needs	\$1,352	\$1,712	(\$360)

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending February 25, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,956
Second Collection	\$513

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,

One of the Gospels of the season of Lent that really encapsulates this season of repentance and forgiveness is the famous Gospel parable of the Prodigal Son. I want to use this Pastor's Column to reflect on that famous Gospel parable as a form of a Lenten reflection.

**Here's the Story.** You all know the story: A man has two sons — one younger, one older (well, yeah, obviously). In any event, the younger son asks his father for his inheritance early, he takes the money, wastes it profligately being prodigal, and finds himself in a strange land (hungry and sad). He decides to go back home, throw himself at his father's feet and apologize for what he did, and seeks to be taken back. Famously, the father, seeing the boy in the distance making his way back home, goes to meet him — and with the expression of repentance made by the boy, the father forgives him. He doesn't just forgive him, he celebrates his home coming with a great feast. The boy's brother, seeing all this, going into angst ridden Jan Brady mode, complains that while his prodigal brother was out gallivanting and squandering his inheritance, he had remained at home and tended to the needs of the father and their land. He laments basically (and I paraphrase here), "Where's my feast? I was a dutiful son. Where is my feast?" The father says, *"My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."* In other words, the biggest joy comes from bringing one of the faithful back into the fold — saving someone's soul. It is a joy worthy of a feast.

**Bill Collectors?** So, what are we to make of this beautiful parable in our own lives? Well, to that end, I will start with another story. Ponder this: what is the difference between a crisp \$20 bill and a soiled and rumpled \$20 bill? The story is told of a preacher who showed his congregation a crisp \$20 bill and asked who wants it. All hands went up. Then he crumpled it in his palms and asked who still wanted it. Again all hands went up. Lastly he threw it on the ground, marched on it and repeated his question. Still the hands went up. Then he explained to them that the difference between a new, crisp \$20 bill and a rumpled and soiled \$20 in our eyes is the difference between a good person and a bad person in the sight of God. Both are equally acceptable. Basically both stand equal before God "since all have sinned

and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). Or as Spiritual writer Henri Nouwen put it, from a different vantage point: "We are all handicapped; some are more visibly handicapped than others."

**Meanwhile Back at the Ranch.** Let us get back, now, into the realm of the parable of the prodigal son... the parable about that family of a father and his two sons. At the beginning of the story we see that the younger son is the bad boy and the elder son the good boy. But by the end of the story we see that both of them in different ways prove themselves to be obstacles to the family unity and harmony which the father desired more than anything.

**The Young and the Restless.** The problem begins with the younger son. Without waiting for his father to die, he asks for his share of the inheritance. Then, he abandons his duties and responsibilities in the family estate and goes abroad to live a life of fun. His reckless life-style drains his fortunes, and he finds himself reduced to abject poverty and misery. That a Jewish boy like him, obviously tended to most of his life, should condescend to feeding pigs (which Jews regard as unclean animals) shows the depths of degradation in which he finds himself. How did he get to this point? Well, a life of sin quickly enough leads people to a situation where they lose all sense of shame and decency. But, the good news for this young man (and for us) is that no matter how far the sinner strays from the Father's house, the loving heart of the Father always follows him (and us), gently whispering in his heart (and ours), "Come home! Come home!" And so it seems that our wild, fun-loving, globe-trotting, profligate spending, pig feeding, sinful younger man has one thing going for him: he is not too proud to go back and say, "I have erred; I am sorry." Like the old Motown chestnut commends: Ain't too proud to beg! And this is precisely what he decides to do.

**I Confess.** Just imagine how this young man's heart was pounding as he approached his father's house, not knowing whether his father would take him back or not! *"But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him"* (Luke 15:20). The young man begins to read his prepared confession — his *mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa* — but

(continued on page 10)

## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F.  
Rev. Brennan Ferris  
Rev. John Hynes

Pastor  
Parochial Vicar  
In Residence

## 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

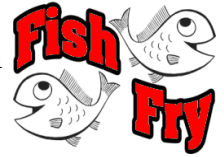
Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## FISH FRYS AT HC

Fish Frys will take place each Friday during Lent in the Parish Hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Dinners will be served in the Parish Hall from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The menu will be breaded cod, baked flounder, fish sticks, mac & cheese, vegetable, cole slaw, coffee, tea, and dessert. Cost is \$15 a plate/ family \$40.00. Eat in or take out available.



## RECONCILIATION TIME DURING LENT

During the Fridays in Lent, reconciliation will be available from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Holy Cross

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception will each offer the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent at 7 pm.

## CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next week, author Connie Marshner will discuss her upcoming book, "Monastery and High Cross: The Forgotten Eastern Roots of Irish Christianity." The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/ DioceseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoons at 1:30. More information is available at cdown.org/ CatholicForum and FaceBook.com/ CatholicForum.

## 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (MARCH 10)

### FIRST READING JEREMIAH 31:31-34

Jeremiah tells us of God's continuing patience with us even when we are most stubborn.

### SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:7-9

It is through Jesus' obedient suffering that we can be saved.

### GOSPEL: JOHN 12:20-33

St. John reveals to us Jesus' thoughts and apprehension about his coming suffering.

## VOLLEYBALL EVALUATIONS

Evaluation for Spring Volleyball will take place on Saturday, March 16. The Parish Office has registration forms available for those interested.

## GIVING UP CLUTTER FOR LENT

The Holy Cross Home School Associate welcomes the parish community to partake in a physical decluttering during this season of Lent. The school is hosting a textile drive from February 26—March 21

**Donations can be dropped off to the Elementary Office ONLY. DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS IN THE GATHERING SPACE. Place items in plastic trash bags.**

**Items accepted:** clothes, outerwear, swimsuits, belts, shoes purses, ties scarves, gloves that, linens drapery, plush toys, backpacks, briefcases.

**Items NOT accepted:** housewares, small appliances, toys, electronics, rugs, workout gear, baby ear, car seats, cribs, walkers.

## COLUMBIETTES

Dover Columbiettes invite all ladies to spend time with Sr. Roni Daniels as she talks about her time with Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Please join us at the Columbian Home, 219 Vepco Blvd. Camden, DE beginning at 6 pm, March 20. We will enjoy refreshments following. We will be done no later than 7:15 pm as our Columbiette meeting begins at that time.

## MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

Our Mom and Baby Group is intended for mothers with babies ages 0-2 years of age. Siblings are welcome to join! This group is for our mothers to connect with each other and our babies to enjoy themselves. We would love if you join us for prayer, discussion, and play time! If you have any small toys you would like to donate to the group, please contact Megan MacCormac. 302 535 9913 or email megs.farl@gmail.com. Our first meeting date will be Saturday, March 23, at 10 am in the Early Learning Center building, second floor.

## HOLY CROSS RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Holy Cross Respect Life group is in need of volunteers, will you join us? It involves creating ways to promote a pro-life, pro-love message to the community around events and special days.

If you are creative and have a heart of love, please call me. Let's chat! Donna 862-266-1099 or email me dlatter86@gmail.com

"Cabrin" the new movie about Mother

## MASS INTENTIONS MARCH

### 11 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Irving Hadley Dennis

### 12 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Galen Purchell

### 13 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Lydia Piano

### 14 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Lydia Piano  
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

### 15 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Eugene Belt

### 16 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Charles M. Stump  
HC 5:00 pm Peter & Pauline Doroshenko

### 17 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am LI Deacon Phil Belt  
ICC 8:30 am Crumlish & Brady Families  
HC 9:30 am Bill Niebrzydowski  
ICC 11:00 am Jack Carrow  
HC 11:30 am LI Frs. Lentini, Ferris, & Hynes  
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Chapel for March 10-16 is for Matthew Kropiewnicki, Jr.

Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first woman in America to be canonized, will be coming to Dover AMC 14 this March. A group will be attending Sunday March 10 at 1:00 showing. (See trailers on YouTube.) Join us! Ticket pre-orders are 50% off! \$4 a ticket via Angel Studios, see link on YouTube. Pay it forward or pay for someone else. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02S9IcBPefw>.

## DE Right to Life Rally - March 27th Dover

Will you join us at the Delaware March for Life to Legislative Hall this year? We march for the legal protection of pre-born children.

Are you aware that abortion is "legal" in Delaware throughout all 9 months?

As Catholics, it is our duty to protect life at all stages, through both prayer and action. See <https://delawarefamilies.org/deforlife/> for more resources and get involved.

## MARCH 16/17, 2024

### EMHC

### SERVERS

5:00  
PM

D. Field M. Sirolli J. Novack  
D. MacLeish N. Sirolli J. Novack

### LECTORS

L. Christiansen  
D. Dixon

7:30  
AM

J. Denney S. Gede L. Boggs  
R. Fritzche P. Jackson S. Corpuz

### LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30  
AM

T. Arndt K. Boyer K. Fernandez  
D. Banach S. Cordie E. Ksenich  
W. Shuron

### LECTORS

J. Coffiend  
S. Crossen

11:30  
AM

T. Hernandez M. Richard TBD  
E. Pastoriza

### LECTORS

TBD

### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30  
AM

### LECTORS

D. Smith

TBF

11:00  
AM

### LECTORS

S. Tucker

1:00  
PM

TBD

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. Please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

## 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. Call John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at jkm2015@verizon.net to schedule.



SUNDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
MONDAY	5 pm
WEDNESDAY	5 pm
THURSDAY	4 pm
FRIDAY	6 am
SATURDAY	5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm

This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival. Please consider taking some time each week out of your busy schedule to sit in silence and prayer before Our Lord. Call today to reserve your hour. You will be so blessed and glad you did.

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest registered member:

- Stephen, Christina and Sophia Lisinski

## NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newly baptized member  
Walter Wesley White III

## PASS THE WORD

Attention high school boys: What is your greatest love? What compels you? Could priesthood be a thought? Come to a day for reflection among peers at St. Elisabeth Ann Seton, Bear, Delaware, on Thursday, March 14, 2024 from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. for Pass the Word 2024 with Bishop Koenig. Sponsored by the Office for Priestly and Religious Vocations of the Diocese of Wilmington. Contact vocations@cdow.org for more information and to RSVP.

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS 2024 – PICTURES

Thank you to all who attended the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass with Bishop Koenig at St. Margaret of Scotland Church. The pictures have been placed on the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington website under the Office for Marriage and Family Life. Please visit <https://www.cdw.org/religious-education/office-for-marriage-and-family-life/> and click on the red link to access the pictures. Any questions can be directed to the Office for Marriage and Family Life – 302-295-0657.



- **Ya estamos en el domingo de Laetare** la cual recibe ese nombre en referencia a las primeras letras de la antífona de entrada de la Misa “Laetare Jerusalem”, lo cual se traduce como “Alégrate, oh, Jerusalén”. Ese día se ve marcado por la alegría, ya que se acerca el tiempo de recordar y vivir los Misterios de la Pasión, Muerte y Resurrección de Cristo en Semana Santa. Nos hace mirar más allá de aquella triste del desierto, y mirar a la libertad que cada vez más se acerca la Pascua del Señor.
- **El Foro Cristiano** Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche. El tema es: El Misterio Eucarístico” Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024.
- **Confesiones:** Todos los sábados de 8:30 am- 10:00 am durante la Cuaresma los viernes a las 5:30pm. Servicio de Reconciliación del Decanato el jueves 21 de marzo, a las 7:00 pm, Lunes, 25 de marzo de Reconciliación de 3-8pm
- **Peregrinación Diocesana:** Nuevamente la diócesis nos ha pedido que participemos en la Vía Crucis como parte de uno de los eventos de la peregrinación con nuestro obispo Koenig, el sábado, 23 de marzo, 2024 en Wilmington. Los Jóvenes y adolescentes que desean participar por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Tendremos los ensayos todos los miércoles a de 7-8:30PM en el salón de nuestra parroquia hermana de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel . Este mismo elenco también presentará la Vía Crucis en Holy Cross el viernes santo a las 9:00 de la noche en la iglesia.

## ICC

### Clases de Preparación Sacramental:

- **Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación** Sesión #6 el domingo 10, de marzo 3:00 – 5:30PM en el salón. Esta será la última clase, todas las tareas deben ser entregadas hoy. Sin excepciones.
- **Entrevistas** seran el 18, 19 y 20 de marzo en ICC
- **Clase de Preparación para La Primera Comunión.** Quinta Sesión el martes, 2 de abril a las 6:30pm en el salón.
- **CYM Peregrinación:** Acompañenos el 23 de marzo de 2024, para la 13.<sup>a</sup> Peregrinación de CYM. Esperamos reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias mientras caminamos por las calles de la ciudad de Wilmington con el obispo Koenig, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia. El Itinerario es: Oración de apertura y entretenimiento a las 10:00 am en la iglesia St. Elizabeth, pasar por el Hospital St. Francis para una bendición especial a los pacientes, la oportunidad de celebrar la Reconciliación en San Antonio de Padua ,experimentar las Estaciones de la Cruz en la Academia de Padua. Seguir a la iglesia de San Pablo para arrodillarse ante el Santísimo Sacramento y regresar a St. Elizabeth para la Bendición de las Palmas y la Misa de las 4:00 pm. El día termina después de la Misa (alrededor de las 5:15 pm). El costo es de \$15 por persona (\$45 por familia) y contamos con autobús, por \$10 adicionales/persona mayor de 10 años (debes registrarte para tener un asiento). Deberíamos regresar a ICC alrededor de las 7:00 p.m. Hay que llevar su almuerzo. El evento del día es de 9:30 am a 5:15 pm. Comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti para obtener más información y formularios de registro para ICC y detalles del autobús, 410-482-8939.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: March 17th 3:00 pm-5:00 pm  
For more information contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

## LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences.

**Next Class:** March 10th 10:30 AM Matthew/Mark Room.

Is your family interested in joining the Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis with Deacon Vince?

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

## ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming formation opportunities!

### Tuesday offerings:

No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk-Through Christ's Passion "Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Bestselling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life."

All are welcome to join us! This class is every Tuesday (at either 9am or 7pm) until the last class, which is March 19th

## YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

### Confirmation Classes:

**Final Class Wednesday, April 10** at 6 pm and Sunday, April 14, at 3 pm. Please do your best to have your child present.

### Youth Group:

Meetings for Youth Group will take place on **Monday, March 18**, this month. We meet from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Luke room of the ELC building 2nd floor. All high school youth are invited.

## SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

### Sacramental Preparation Classes:

**Confirmation Prep:** Session #6, Sunday March 10, 3pm-5:30pm in the Parish Hall. This is the last meeting, all papers are due today, no exceptions. Interviews are March 18th and 20th at ICC.

**First Communion:** Prep Session #5 on Tuesday, March 19th, at 6:30pm promptly in parish hall.

**CYM Pilgrimage:** Now in its thirteenth year, and better than ever. Plan today to join us on March 23, 2024, for the 13th CYM Pilgrimage. We hope to gather one thousand youth, young adults, and families as we walk the city streets of Wilmington with Bishop Koenig, carrying the Pilgrimage Cross from parish to parish. Plans include opening prayer and entertainment at 10:00 am at St. Elizabeth, stopping by St. Francis Hospital for a special blessing of the patients, the chance to celebrate Reconciliation at St. Anthony of Padua, experiencing the Stations of the Cross at Padua Academy, to kneel before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Paul, and return to St. Elizabeth for Blessing of Palms and 4:00 pm Mass. The day ends after Mass (around 5:15pm). The cost is \$15 per person (\$45 for a family) and we have a bus, for an additional \$10/person over 10 years old (you must register to have a seat). We should be returning to ICC at around 7:00pm. The day's event is from 9:30am-5:15pm. Please contact Alicia Popiti for more information and registration forms for ICC and bus details, 410-482-8939. Registration due no later than March 17th.

### Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open on March 1st.

Registrations will be taken for Sunday Religious Education classes from March 1st to August 30th.

Registrations available at desk in hall during religious education classes and online.

**Catechists are always needed and helpers always welcome!!**



*"Because of our traditions,  
We've kept our balance for many, many years.  
Here in Anatevka we have traditions for everything...  
how to eat, how to sleep, even, how to wear clothes.  
For instance, we always keep our heads covered  
and always wear a little prayer shawl...  
This shows our constant devotion to God.  
You may ask, how did this tradition start?  
I'll tell you - I don't know. But it's a tradition...  
Because of our traditions,  
Everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do.  
Tevya, Fiddler on the Roof*

My career began in a neighborhood location of a metropolitan area where tradition and the practice of old world customs were important to the families. Or more correctly said, they were important to the parents and grandparents. School aged children practiced the traditions because they were important to their parents and it was the way it always was. During my time there I saw the communities begin to dissipate, young adults were fleeing the neighborhoods and its traditions in favor of suburbia, the quiet tree-lined streets, where every house had a driveway and garage. The concrete pavements in the old neighborhoods were abandoned in favor of green grass and big back yards. And, sadly, abandoned too, oftentimes were the old traditions brought to this country by their parents, or grandparents before them.

One of my favorite stories is told in the movie, Fiddler On The Roof. Oddly enough it was the first movie I ever watched after my husband decided to bring cable television into our home almost thirty years ago. The movie depicts the breakdown of the community and family unit due to circumstances beyond the control of those affected by cruel outside influences. Their traditional practices, and determination to preserve them, however, are packed up with their meager belongings as they set out for a new world.

My maternal family members in part sailed to American shores on a boat set out from England in the very early 1900's. In all honesty, the only real traditions practiced in my family, if any, were of the culinary variety. I suppose that was because of the similarity of the American and English cultures. Speculation, just mere speculation on my part. My grandmother, born in the United States, held fast to her beliefs as an Episcopalian, and although a staunch Democrat, always maintained some allegiance to the concept of rule by a monarch. She and I enjoyed many a tea-party replete with fancy bone-china tea-cups. Lemon slices and a lighted candle were always placed on the table... and some sort of sweet nibble. To this very day my beverage of choice is a good hot cup of tea. A practice passed down by my grandmother, and her grandmother before her.

Lent and Easter are liturgical seasons when a family's traditional practices are often observed. Many of these customs have been preserved from the "old country" and will serve to enrich the ritual practices associated with the seasons.

Permit me please to once again to summon up memories of my dear grandmother. She had a particular fondness for hot-cross buns. If it was Easter, by George, there were going to be hot-cross buns in the house. Most times they were ordered days ahead of time from the local bakery, but there were those special times when she and I prepared the recipe ourselves. Home-baked and enjoyed with melted butter and marmalade. Add a cup of hot tea, and there you have yourself a tradition! Simply stated, a hot cross bun is a spiced sweet bun usually made with dried fruit, raisins, or currents, marked with a simple white cross on the top. They have been traditionally eaten on Good Friday. The traditional recipe has its roots in the United Kingdom, and my grandmother learned to bake them from her mother.

And so, it wasn't too very long ago that I began thinking about those days in the kitchen with my grandmother. I toyed with thoughts of baking hot cross buns over our Easter holiday break, and I might. The modern bakery version just will not compare, if I could even find them.

I learned a great deal about cooking while working alongside my grandmother in the kitchen. There's a lot to learn. Measuring skills, appreciating the concept and meaning of a fraction, reading a recipe properly, safety with cooking tools, not to mention the opportunity to create lifelong memories.

I have a few websites you might reference for hot cross bun recipes and directions. Know ahead of time; it will probably take the better part of an afternoon, but the end results are well worth the time investment. And it's a sweet (literally) tradition to start with the family.

[www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/easy-hot-cross-buns-recipe](http://www.kingarthurbaking.com/recipes/easy-hot-cross-buns-recipe)  
<https://www.recipestineats.com/hot-cross-buns-recipe/>  
<https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/7073/hot-cross-buns>

So how about donning the apron, pulling down the canister of flour, a great big mixing bowl and get started on the recipe, just you and the kiddos? And, do not forget to fill the kettle!!

*"...You may ask, how did this tradition start?  
I'll tell you - I don't know. But it's a tradition...  
Because of our traditions,  
Everyone knows who he is and what God expects him to do." Tevya, Fiddler on the Roof*

his father is so overjoyed he does not even appear to be intently listening to it (but he is listening, of course).

**Good News, Except for the Calf.** Then the father, with his overjoy in overdrive, says to his servants, *"Quickly, bring out a robe -- the best one -- and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!"* (Luke 15:22-24). And they began to celebrate the good news of the younger son's return to the fold. Or to put it in the words of Kool and the Gang from their 1980 hit songs: "Celebrate good times, come on!"

**Old Brother: "Huh?"** At this point the story shows us the flaws of the good elder brother. Instead of rejoicing that his brother who was presumed lost (or even dead) has come back, he is angered by the fact that their father has received him back with a celebration. In anger he distances himself from his own family and from the party. As he leaves he is likely muttering to himself, "This is unfair. This is unfair" -- a word that is often used to justify anger, intolerance, self-righteousness and violence. In so doing, the "good" elder brother brings disunity to the father's house and sorrow to himself. The sins of those who are not good enough (younger brother) as well as the sins of those who are too good (elder brother) are equally obstacles in the realization of unity and harmony in the father's house.

**The Heart of the Matter.** We are all sinners. Whether your sins are more visible like those of the younger son or more hidden like those of the elder son, the message for us today is that we all need to repent and return to the father's house. The younger son needs to turn back from his frivolous lifestyle and return to the father's house and be a responsible and obedient son. The elder son needs to turn back from anger and resentment and learn to share the house with the apparently undeserving younger brother. Or to quote from the 1980s hit song, "The Heart of the Matter," *"There are people in your life who've come and gone / y'know they let you down / you know they hurt your pride. / You better put it all behind you / cause life goes on / [and] if you keep carrying that anger / it'll eat you up inside."* I would imagine the song was missing from the old brother's Apple Music playlist!

**Yet Another Story.** After pondering the parable of the Prodigal Son, I am reminded of a churchy anecdote I heard years ago. This anecdote would seem to be a good jumping off point for this reflection (lest I use my words far to prodigally). The story, as it is told, goes like this: One weekend, a Sunday school teacher was teaching her young students about the parable of the Prodigal Son. After teaching her students about that Parable, and reading the entire bible passage to them, the teacher asked the children this question: "Now tell me: Who do think suffered the most in the story?" One little child raised her hand and answered, "The fatted calf." Very true, very funny and very much puts me in the mood for a burger!

**No Feast for You!** That humorous anecdote aside, I would assert that next to the aforementioned fatted calf, on the list of those who suffered the most in that parable, comes the elder son. Yes, I would say that the one who suffered the most was the elder son who remained outside while the party went on inside. He did not even get to taste the fatted calf that he had helped to raise. He did not get to enjoy the feast. He did not get to share in another's joy and success. He did not get to find joy in his brother's return. The older brother was walking around angry because his Father was forgiving: His brother sought (and received) forgiveness, and the older brother begrudged his younger brother — to his own detriment.

That older brother suffered because he stuck to his own ideas of fairness and justice and failed to see that the Father's ways are not our ways. He failed to recall the words of Isaiah 55:8-9, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways... for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, my thoughts higher than your thoughts."* And let us thank the Lord for that!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor