

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 17, 2024

Fifth 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

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

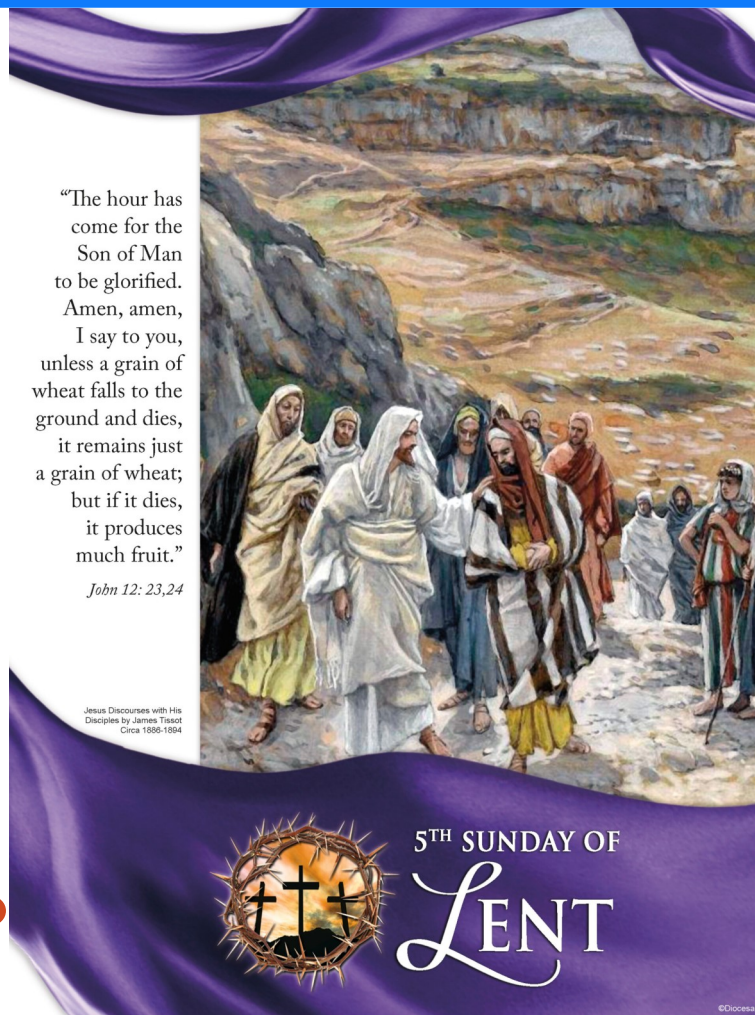
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



"The hour has
come for the
Son of Man
to be glorified.
Amen, amen,
I say to you,
unless a grain of
wheat falls to the
ground and dies,
it remains just
a grain of wheat;
but if it dies,
it produces
much fruit."

John 12: 23,24

Jesus Discourses with His
Disciples by James Tissot
Circa 1886-1894

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.

**Attend our Deanery
Reconciliation Service**
Thursday, March 21, at 7 pm

Holy Cross Church
**Visiting priests available to
hear confessions**

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Confession on Friday, March 22
5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
Holy Cross

or

Confessions on Friday, March 22
3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Immaculate Conception

++++++

Saturday, March 23
8:30 am to 10 am
Holy Cross Church

++++++

Reconciliation Monday, March 25
Confession from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Holy Cross Church



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending March 3, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$24,441	\$25,900	(\$1,459)
YTD	\$967,409	\$973,280	(\$5,871)
Needs	\$878	\$1,712	(\$834)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending March 3, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$5,252
Second Collection	\$365

**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,

There are several words in our language that we often confuse with other words. I can remember being at a dinner a few years ago where the emcee commended the keynote speaker for his “elegant” words, when actually he meant to compliment his “eloquent” words. Similarly, we often confuse words like “affect” and “effect” – though my Fifth Grade Teacher Sr. Bernard Mary taught us to distinguish the difference between those two words this way: an effect is an end result (e.g., withered crops were the effect of the drought), while an affect is the way something acts upon something else (e.g., The bad business location of the store affected the likelihood of people shopping there). She also taught us the distinction between “stationary” and “stationery”: When something is stationary it stays in place; to use stationery you need a pen or pencil. To this day, I still remember and utilize those helpful hints that guide me to the correct word (and spelling) to use.

A Season Yule Remember. But then you have two words that are slightly different but actually mean the same thing. For example, the word “time” and “tide.” We have all heard the expression that “Time and tide wait for no man.” One might think that those two words in that phrase are talking about forward chronology (time) and the movement of ocean waters (tide). But in fact, that’s only half correct. When we say, “time and tide wait for no man,” time does, as noted, refers to the passage of time; tide however doesn’t refer to ocean tides, rather it refers to seasons of the year. Thus “Yuletide” refers to “the happening” or “occurrence” of Christmas, and by extension the days and weeks around it. So, when one says that “Time and tide wait for no man,” it means that time and seasons pass, regardless of us or our desires.

And now, another tide is washing up on our doorstep this weekend: It is the start of what is known as the Passiontide.

The Tide is High-Nigh. On the topic of “tides,” this week in the Catholic Church, we begin the period of what used to be called “Passiontide.” Passiontide is that part of the Season of Lent that starts on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, leads us to Palm Sunday and continues through the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week. It is a time (or tide) when we are called to reflect on the Passion of Christ. Since 1970, a tide of change has come to the period of “Passiontide”

- Passiontide still begins on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, but back in the day that Sunday wasn’t called the Fifth Sunday of Lent, it was known as “Passion Sunday” (or “The First Sunday of Passiontide”).

- Palm Sunday, which is always the sixth Sunday of the season of Lent, used to be celebrated as the “Second Sunday of the Lord’s Passion” (or “Second Sunday in Passiontide”) – though called “Palm Sunday.”

- These days, Passion Sunday (Fifth Sunday of Lent) and Palm Sunday (on the Sixth Sunday of Lent) are now conjoined and observed together, on what is called “Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion.” (which is next Sunday).

Passionate Observance. So, how is one to observe this period of Passiontide? Well, Pope St. John Paul II, said in 1995: *“With Passiontide almost upon us, let us continue to look to Him who freely laid down his life that He might take it up again.”* In other words, let us focus on Christ, along with the events in his life related to His Sacred Passion, made known to us in Scripture and Tradition. So, how do we focus on this during this time of the Church year? Well there are several ways we observe or note this “Passiontide” period:

Cover Up. Within the body of the Church there is the practice of veiling images. Veiling of Images traditionally, though by no means universally, takes before the first Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent (which is start of Passiontide). Those images by tradition remain veiled, usually with a purple cloth, until Holy Saturday. The veiling of these images may serve focus us more the salvific works of Christ in our redemption. In another sense, it is oft asserted that the statues of saints are veiled to connote Christ’s sense of being abandoned by his followers (more than below).

- **Purple Reign?** The traditions of veiling crosses, statues and images with a violet cloth is a tradition of the Church that stems from the medieval period (though it might have earlier origins). In the medieval era a tradition developed known as “the hunger cloth” – this was a violet cloth that was hung in the sanctuary of the Church in front of the altar; this kept the faithful members present from being able to view the altar. The use of this cloth late in the season of Lent, was to invoke a spirit hunger on the faithful – a fast of the eyes – as they were kept from seeing the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass occur. This hunger would be sated on Holy Thursday and Easter, as the cloth was removed at those times. Over time, the cloth became small and moved from the altar to the images of the Church. Hence, purple-ish coverings reigned over the imagery of the Church.

- **Uncovering the Reasons for Coverings.** As the veiling of images in purple during Passion-

(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, we explore the Sacrament of Penance with Pastor, Rector, Chancellor and Judicial Vicar, Father Joseph McQuaide, as we prepare for Reconciliation Monday on March 25th. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoons at 1:30.

PALM SUNDAY (MARCH 24)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 50:4-7

The true disciple doesn't abandon God despite opposition and so, in turn, is not abandoned by God.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:6-11

Jesus did not exploit his equality with God.

GOSPEL: MARK 14:1-15-15:47

An unnamed woman ignores convention and anoints Jesus' feet with expensive perfume and her tears.

CHRISM MASS

The annual Diocesan Chrism Mass will be held at Holy Cross on **Tuesday, March 26**, beginning at 7 pm. Bishop Koenig and the diocesan priests and deacons will be present during this Mass. All are welcome to attend.

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, 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

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.

Holy Cross Respect Life group is in need of

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH

18 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Josph Couls

19 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Lydia Piano

20 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Veronica A. & Joseph P. Loughran

21 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Edna Mulloy
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

22 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Norman Robert

23 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Frances Tolliver
HC 5:00 pm Raymond Cola

24 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Frank L. Tenusak
ICC 8:30 am Edward & Delores McGowan
HC 9:30 am Jane A. Jones
ICC 11:00 am Crumlish & Brady Families
HC 11:30 am John Coury
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church for March 10-16 is for Ralph & Caroline Marrinucci.

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

GOOD FRIDAY LIFE CHAIN EVENT

Please join us on Friday, March 29, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. until 12 Noon for our annual ProLife Life Chain Event in front of the Planned Parenthood Center at 805 S. Governors Avenue, Dover. Our Event will be prayerful, introspective, and peaceful. You may be with us for the whole time, or any part, of the two hours that you can spare. Please pray for all aspects of our ProLife beliefs from the preborn to, and including, the aged.

MARCH 23/24, 2024			
EMHC		SERVERS	
5:00 PM	M. Macleish D. Kalten- baugh	M. Phillips P. Sheldon	J. Novack M. Rubino
	LECTORS H. Walker F. Urick		
7:30 AM	M. Jacobs J .Salamone	T. Svienty M .Thompson	J. Shevock S. Shevock
	LECTORS J. Davis		
9:30 AM	D. Martinez P. Ford	F. Hanlin K .Kelly	K Fernandez G. Maddalena C. Imhoff
	LECTORS S. Ford C. Parks		
11:30 AM	C. Garcia B. Guzman	A. Luna	TBD
	LECTORS TBD		
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	TBD		
	LECTORS B. Thompson		
11:00 AM	TBF		
	LECTORS L. Soule		
1:00 PM	TBD		

Holy Cross is in need of more Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion for our Masses and for the homebound. You simply need to attend one training class before being scheduled for the Masses.

If interested in assisting with the distribution to our homebound parishioners, you take our training class and then shadow with one of our current EM's so you can become familiar with the process of going to the homebound.

If you have ever thought of becoming an EMHC, now is the time to sign up for our next class that will be held on **Monday, April 1, at 4 pm** in the church. The class is about 90 minutes long. Call the Parish Office to sign up today!!!

TRIDUUM & EASTER SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

Morning Prayer—8:00 am at HC
Mass of Last Supper - 7:00 pm at HC and ICC

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

Morning Prayer—8:00 am at HC
Veneration of Cross—3:00 pm at HC
Stations of Cross—7:00 pm at HC and ICC
Hispanic Stations and Tenebrae—9:00 pm at HC

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

Morning Prayer—8:00 am at HC
Easter Vigil Mass—8:00 pm at HC and ICC

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am Hispanic at HC
8:30 am and 10:00 am, 1:00 pm Hispanic at ICC

ADORATION CHAPEL

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 or text 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	4 pm
FRIDAY	6 am
SATURDAY	5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

The Adoration Chapel will be closed from Thursday, March 28, at 6:00 pm until Monday, April 1, at 5:00 am.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest registered member:

- Elizabeth Driscoll
- Ellsworth and Cheryl Jones
- Sean Pool and Brittany Walls
- Rosalie Vargas

HOLY COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

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 at that facility.

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.

- Quinto Domingo de Cuaresma Es llamada también domingo de Pasión. No confundamos El “Domingo de Pasión” con el “Domingo de Ramos”, que es justo el domingo siguiente a este con el comienzo de la Semana Santa. El Domingo de Pasión nos recuerda que, muriendo en tierra, el grano de trigo produce una rica cosecha. Muriendo en la cruz, Jesús nos da vida eterna. Es una reflexión paradójica, en la que uno muere para dar vida. Es preciso recordar las palabras de Cristo «con la vida sucede lo mismo que con el grano de trigo, que tiene que morir para liberar toda su energía y producir un día su fruto». También los discípulos de Jesús deben arriesgar sus vidas por los demás. Comprendiendo que no es posible vivir de verdad si **uno no está dispuesto a morir por los demás.**
- **El Foro Cristiano.** No habrá Foro Cristiano el 22, 29 de marzo ni el 5 de abril. Clases se reanudarán el 12 de abril. Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche hasta 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, 19 de marzo a las 6:30pm en el salón.

Próximo Año. Las inscripciones para el próximo año escolar 2024-2025 están abiertas, Inscripciones estarán abiertas hasta el 30 de agosto. Puede tomar una aplicación en el salón o en puede bajar la en línea. www.iccmarydel.org o visite la oficina parroquial. Se necesitan Catequistas y voluntarios. Si usted desea ser catequista o ayudar hable con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti.

CYM Peregrinación: Acompañenos el 23 de marzo de 2024, para la 13.^a 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)

Class today, March 17 3:00 pm-5:00 pm
Next Class: April 14 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: April 14, 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)

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." Last class is March 19.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Youth Group: Next Meeting Monday, March 18 at 6:30 pm in the Luke Room 2nd floor ELC

Confirmation Class: Last Class - Wednesday, April 10 at 6 pm and Sunday, April 14 at 3 pm.

PLEASE NOTE - the April 14 class was moved from April 7.

Purse Bingo: A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Purse Bingo fundraiser last weekend. It was a huge success and our teens appreciate everything you have done to assist them in getting to Catholic Heart Work Camp in Knoxville this June.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

Confirmation Prep: Scheduled Interviews are March 18 and 20 at ICC.

First Communion: Prep Session #5 on Tuesday, March 19, 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 9:30 am-5:15pm. Please contact Alicia Poppiti for more information and registration forms for ICC and bus details, 410-482-8939. Registration due no later than March 17.

Next Year: Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open on March 1.

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

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

Catechists are always needed and helpers always welcome!!

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matthew 21:22

To even give thought to working in an environment where I am not surrounded by colleagues who freely and openly express their faith, who freely and openly request others for prayer, who freely and openly rejoice when prayers have been answered is completely abhorrent to me. It is one of the many reasons that we remain employed in a Catholic school. To be told that we cannot express our faith among colleagues and with those who we teach is abhorrent to me. I can personally attest to the solidification of my own faith over my years of employment at HCS. When I retire, I will miss the camaraderie and commonality with my colleagues that is rooted in our Catholic beliefs and faith in God the most.

It is precisely 8:00 am and each day at Holy Cross begins in the same manner. With prayer. "Good morning Holy Cross, please stand for prayer." Every student in every classroom rises in response and faces the classroom crucifix. Strategically placed in the classroom, the ever-present walkie-talkie allows us to pray as an entire school community. Morning prayer begins with a brief introduction for the day as it appears on the liturgical calendar. Perhaps it is a significant Feast-Day, or a national holiday such as Veterans Day, a topical preface is read before our prayer leader for the day continues with "In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Our reading is taken from the Gospel of Matthew." (or maybe its Mark, Luke, or John). The reading is followed by a brief reflection, which is in turn followed by silent prayer for communities throughout the world. In many years past we would pray the words that Jesus taught us; however, in the past several years the Our Father has been replaced with the diocesan prayer that coincides with the Diocesan theme for the year. In the past we have prayed such prayers as the Apostles Creed, the Morning Offering, the Memorare, and the Prayer of St. Francis. It's a great way to introduce our students to the different prayers as they commit them to memory over time. This year we have been taking a deeper dive into the Beatitudes with the following prayer being recited each morning.

Beatitudes Prayer

Lord, Make me poor in spirit, so I can receive the kingdom of heaven.
 When I mourn, help me find comfort.
 Make me meek, so that I may inherit the land.
 Help me to hunger and thirst for righteousness, so I may be satisfied.
 Make me merciful, so I may obtain your mercy.
 Make me pure of heart, so I may see you.
 Help me to make peace, so I may be called your child.
 When I am persecuted for righteousness' sake, show me your kingdom. Amen

We are all of one accord in the beauty of those words. It serves as the perfect model for life, and a wonderful lesson for children as they learn to live in harmony with those whose path may cross their own as they walk life's journey. I love that we pray these important words together as a school community every day. The Beatitudes Prayer concludes the prayer portion of our morning exercise. A mission statement is a clear pronouncement of a reason for being, that which gives reason for existence, a statement of objective. Are you familiar with the Mission Statement for HCS? *Holy Cross School is an academically rich, faith-filled learning environment thus ensuring a Catholic values-based education. At Holy Cross we strive to convey a sense of justice, peace, compassion, and respect for all God's creation."*

You'll find our Mission Statement in clear view displayed in every classroom. (As a peek ahead, our Mission Statement has been slightly modified as part of our Middle States re-accreditation process).

"And now let us face the flag" continues the cheerful voice over the radio. With right hand over the heart, facing the classroom flag the Pledge of Allegiance is recited. *"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty, and justice for all."* "God bless America!" "Have a great day, Holy Cross!!"

It is 8:07 am. Building location and grade level will determine the plan for the first hours of the school day. 8:07 does not mark the end of the prayer experience for the day.

In Junior High, each class begins with prayer. *"In the name of the Father who created me, The Son who redeems me, and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies me, I offer my thoughts and works to you during this class, Amen."*

Before a crumb of food is placed on the tip of the tongue, every child age three through eighth grade prays the Grace Before Meals at snack time or lunch. *"Bless us O Lord an these Thy gifts which we are to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord, Amen."*

It will remain a favorite story of mine; so many parents have told us that they have had to include the Grace Before Meals in their family routine because their children have learned to do so at school.

In Junior High, the Prayer of Thanksgiving following meals is recited. *"We give you thanks Almighty God for these and all they benefits, You who reign now and forever. Amen."*

And with that, it's back to class.....until.... It's 2:00 pm at HCS. That same cheerful voice is heard schoolwide, once again. "Good afternoon Holy Cross. Please stand for prayer." *"In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen. Our Lady of the Highways, be with us on our journey, for all your ways are beautiful and all your paths are peace."*

"Have a great afternoon Holy Cross!"

"Whatever you ask for in prayer with faith, you will receive." Matthew 21:22

tide became a universal practice over the centuries, a spiritual understanding became attached to it. The ideas of covering the images of the saints, for example, began to presage two devotional aspects in the minds and hearts of the faithful:

I. Apostles and Others Turning Away. The covering of the images represents the idea that many of the saints and apostles turned away (hid their eyes) from Jesus during his Passion (e.g., Peter denying Him; Jesus betraying Him). We hear an echo of this in the scripture that reads, "Lord turned and looked at Peter ... [and Peter] went out and began to weep bitterly." (Luke 22:61-62) – St. Peter denied Jesus three times, and when the Lord looked at Him, rather than going to his side, St. Peter "went out" (away) and wept.

II. A Sense of Abandonment. The covering of the images also speaks not just to the idea of his faithful follower turning away from Him, but more pointedly to Jesus feeling of abandonment and forsakenness by those around him — that is, how alone He felt during His passion and His time on the Cross. He felt abandoned by those friends and followers who had been around Him and were now scarce. Jesus felt that sense of abandonment so profoundly, that upon the Cross "[He] cried out in a loud voice, 'Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'" (Matthew 27:46)

Reflection on this aspect of the Passion during the period of time helps us to draw closer to our Lord, and share in his Passion, as we contemplate the events that are the focus of this tail-end of the Season of Lent.

- **Passionate Readings.** During Passiontide, the readings in the Mass place special focus on Christ's final days and weeks... the tide (time) of his Passion. Perhaps during these final weeks of Lent, we can look ahead in the Missal and take time to reflect on the words of Scripture to be read at Mass. If you would like to look at the readings, especially the Gospel readings, during this period of time, I commend you to go to the website for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Go to the web address: <https://bible.usccb.org/readings/calendar>. There you can see a calendar on that page, which can direct you to the daily and Sunday readings in their fullness.

- **14 Step Program.** In 1731, Pope Clement XII permitted "Stations of the Cross" to be created in all churches, and by Papal decree he fixed the number of Stations at 14. Thus, it is that, in the tradition of the Church, the devotional practice of praying the Stations of the Cross represents another powerful way to engage in and reflect upon 14 various moments in our Lord's Passion, especially during this Season of Passiontide. If you have yet to attend the Stations of the Cross this year, by all means come and pray that devotion during this Passiontide. The Station of the Cross are devotedly prayed and observed each Friday night in Lent, and on Good Friday, at 7:00 p.m., at both Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception parishes. At this devotional observance, the faithful make their way through the Fourteen Stations of the Cross which allow us to journey with Christ through his Passion. Take that time to draw yourself into a time of prayerful reflection on the Passion of our Lord. If you cannot attend Church to present for the Stations of the Cross, you can pray and meditate on them privately – use our online station at www.iccmarylodel.org/stations.

Let me, on a final note on Passiontide, commend to you an old hymn in our Catholic faith entitled, *Fulget Crucis mysterium*, ("the mystery of the Cross shines out"). The penultimate verse of that hymn is best reflected upon with eyes focused on the Cross of our Savior. That verse's words shine forth the hope we are called share in faith amidst this period of Passiontide:

*O Cross, all hail! Sole hope, abide
With us now in this Passiontide:
New grace in loving hearts implant
And pardon to the guilty grant!*

Blessed Passiontide to one and all.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

PS: And to our many Irish parishioners, on this 17th day of March, your Italian pastor wishes you — and all the faithful — a happy and blessed St. Patrick's Day!

