



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 19, 2023

4th 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

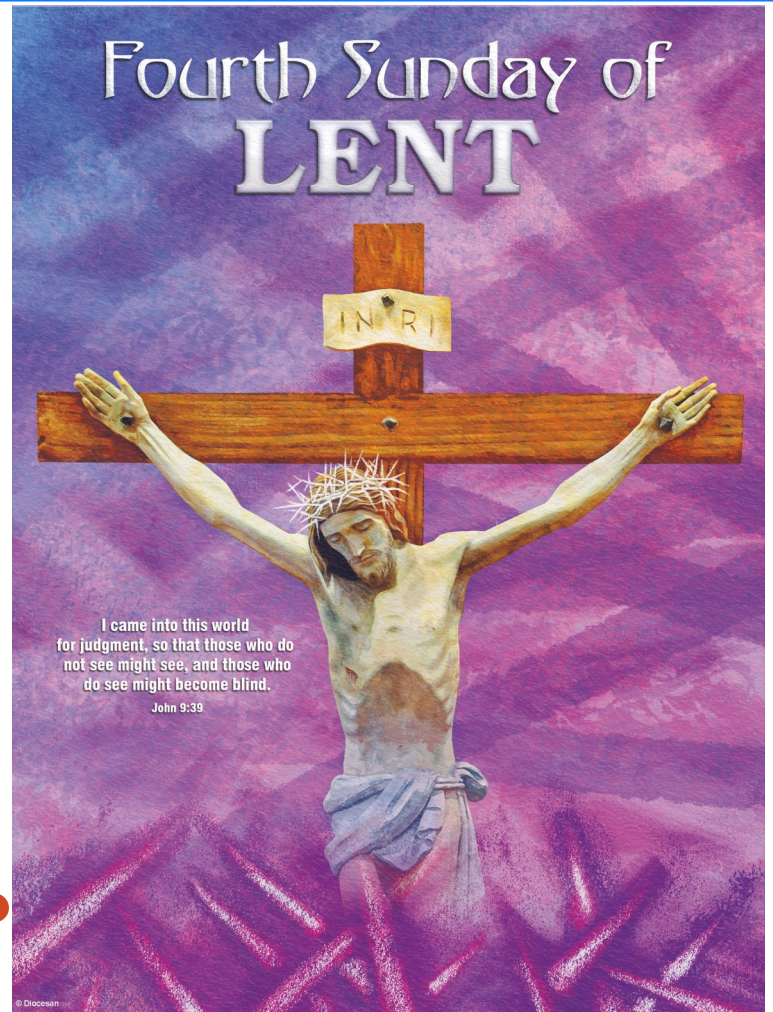
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

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

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

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

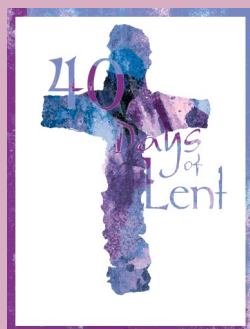
Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

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

LENT

The rules for fasting and abstinence for Lent are as follows:

- Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, and all the Fridays of Lent.
- Every person between the age of 18 and 60 must fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
- Every person 14 years of age or older must abstain from meat (and items made with meat) on all other Fridays of the year, unless he or she substitutes some other form of penance for abstinence.



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending March 5, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$27,623	\$27,225	\$398
YTD	\$960,591	\$988,225	(\$27,634)
Needs	\$927	\$1,604	(\$677)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending March 5, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,840
Second Collection	\$586

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,

A terrible bill has been introduced in the Delaware State Legislature — it is a bill that would effectively set into motion the granting of power to the state of Delaware to determine circumstances in which the Seal of Confession can be vitiated and violated. It is a pernicious proposal that would insert the hand of Government above the hand of God in matters that are Sacramental.

Mixed Seasoning. Further below in this column is an article on this matter that appeared on the lifesitenews.com website a few days ago. I think it sums up the circumstances and implications of this bill. I had hoped to write more about Lent in this week's Pastor's Column, but — if you would kindly pardon the mixed seasons reference — the advent during Lent of Bill HB 74, makes this no ordinary time for this Pastor's Column.

Somebody's Watching Me? There was a song in the 1980s by singer Rockwell that featured the lyrics, *"I always feel like somebody's watching me and I have no privacy. I always feel like somebody's watching me — tell me it is just a dream."* In this case, the loss of confessional privacy — one regulated by the whim of the state — is not only not a dream it is a nightmare. While "somebody's watching me" provides great fodder for a song lyric, no one should ever have to sing those words walking into a confessional. On the moral and ethical end of things, this bill (HB 74) seeks to violate the Seal of Confession and it imperils the all-important and sacred priest-penitent relationship. People need to be able to bare their souls in confession without worrying that the State of Delaware is, metaphorically, listening.

86ing HB 74. On the legal end of things, this runs smack into the freedom of religion and freedom of worship that are enshrined not just in our Federal Constitution but also in our State Constitution. The Government does not maintain, oversee, direct, or regulate the discipline (the practice) of the Sacraments. That is done by the Bishop, the Holy Father, and the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. Our Federal Constitution in its First Amendment reminds us that our government *"shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."* Those protections are, since the late 1860s, imposed on the States by way of the 14th Amendment. Likewise, the Delaware Constitution promises, *"no power shall or ought to be vested ... that shall in any case interfere with, or in any manner control the rights of conscience, in the free exercise of religious worship."* Thus this bill HB 74, is

not only immoral, it is prima facie unconstitutional. Thus HB 74 should be 86'd.

An Outwards Sign, Not a Government Program. As the faithful know, the Sacraments are outward signs instituted by Christ to confer grace — they are not government programs, nor grants of governmental largesse. Confession is not the Sacrament of governmental surveillance. While some might say that the State is only seeking that a specific sin(s) be revealed if confessed, this is just the camel's nose under the tent, it is the thin edge of the wedge. The State of Delaware does not have — and indeed no government anywhere should have — a role in the Sacramental life of the Church and the Faithful.

Of Caesar and God. While we render unto Caesar that which is Caesar's, and unto God that which is God's — this is the time where we have to say to the Caesars of the world: *"This is where the line is drawn, not a step further."* It is my hope, that by the time you read this, this bill will have been withdrawn from consideration and be banished unto the ash heap of history. Let us pray!

Who You Gonna Call? Before I yield the contents of this column over to the text of the www.lifesitenews.com article I have referred to, I would commend the faithful of our Parish who live in Delaware to contact their state Senators and Representatives and direct them to put this bad bill to a quick and decisive end. This bill should be withdrawn.

With that, here below is the article on HB 74 and the Diocese of Wilmington's response as reported LifeSite News.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

—

The Catholic Diocese of Wilmington has condemned proposed legislation which would require priests to break the seal of the confessional in order to reveal details of child abuse or neglect.

In the statement issued March 7, the diocese outlined the Catholic Church's teaching on the seal of the confessional and its relation to the proposed bill HB 74.

The proposed bill, introduced to the Delaware General Assembly March 2 by Rep. Eric Morrison, "abrogates the privilege between priest and penitent in a sacra-

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Brennan Ferris	Parochial Vicar

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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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
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

FISH FRYs

Fish Frys are taking 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 7 pm. On Friday, March 24, the menu will be fish tacos. Cost is \$15 a plate.

RECONCILIATION TIME DURING LENT

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

Holy Cross will host a Reconciliation Service on Thursday, March 30, at 7 pm, in the church. Visiting priests will be available to hear confessions.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY IS COMING



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

On Friday, March 30, the students of Holy Cross School will present the Living Stations of the Cross at 7 pm at Holy Cross Church.

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT (MAR 26)

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 37:12-14

Through the prophet, the Lord speaks to the community in exile: "I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live."

SECOND READING: ROMANS 8:8-11

Paul focuses on how God's Spirit lives in us.

GOSPEL: JOHN 11:1-45

The extraordinary account of the final sign that Jesus gave—the raising of Lazarus from death itself.

PROLIFE EVENT

Please come and join us for our Good Friday Life Chain on Good Friday, April 7, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. until Noon, in front of Planned Parenthood of Delaware, located at 805 S. Governors Avenue, Dover. This Life Chain Event is meant to be introspective, prayerful, and peaceful. I am sure you have noticed that since the overturn of 'Roe v. Wade', by the Supreme Court of the United States, pro-death abortion forces are even more vile and despicable than ever. If ever we need you to attend our peaceful Life Chain event, it is now! Your prayers and support are requested. For more information, please contact Francis Urick, 302.233.4684.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

The Cemetery website has been revamped with new features and updated information. Go to: holycrossdover.org/about-us/cemetery

RACHEL'S VINEYARD

A Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of April 21-23, 2023. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with the pain of abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by April 7.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, March 25th, Dr. Thomas Williams will discuss his book, "The Coming Christian Persecution." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts.

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH

20 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Norman Robert
21 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Teresa Crenshaw
22 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	John Clinton Connolly, Sr.
23 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Raymond Cola
ICC 7:00 pm	For the People
24 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Jane A. Jones
25 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Donald Peer
HC 5:00 pm	Gregory & Brian Shouldis, Debra Shouldis Petrovich
26 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Tom Kolakowski, Sr.
ICC 8:30 am	Delores & Ed McGowan
HC 9:30 am	John Hawryluk
ICC 11:00 am	Sachiko Saus
HC 11:30 am	Clara Valdes
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

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

SAMARITAN NEEDS

The Samaritans are now accepting Hams and all the accompanying foods to give to needy families for a wonderful Easter Meal.

We can use: 6, 8 or 10 pound hams, Sweet Potatoes or Yams, Cranberries, canned Pineapple, sliced or chunk, Rice, canned gravy or pouch gravy mix, Powdered Potato boxes, canned vegetables (Corn and Green Beans, etc.) and Mac and Cheese. And, if possible a carton of Eggs for the children.

Thank you for your help and generosity. Food can be left in the Samaritan area as you enter the church property. The door is open from 7 am to 6 pm.

HOLY CROSS MARCH 25/26

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

C. Bugglin M. Casey
M. Caccese D. Field

S. Murawski
B. Richardson
L. Richardson

LECTORS

L. Christiansen
F. Urick

7:30 AM

J. Clendaniel M. Thomson
J. Denney A. Willie

B. Gyamfi
E. Gyamfi
S. Shevock

LECTORS

D. Kilby

9:30 AM

K. Canfield C. Jones
S. Cordie C. Robinson

F. Madukwe
J. Seeney
W. Shuron

LECTORS

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez M. Richard
E. Patoriza

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

S. Bell

LECTORS

K. Cairns

11:00 AM

G. Taraila

LECTORS

L. Soule

1:00 PM

TBD

Homebound Ministry at Holy Cross
Needs Your Help

Holy Cross is in need of more Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to bring the Eucharist to the shut ins and those in the nursing homes and hospital. We service so many assisted living places, rehabilitation places, nursing homes, the hospital, and the homebound and do not have enough ministers to lighten the load of those already doing this special ministry.

We will offer one class to train you as an EMHC. We will have you also shadow with someone to make you feel comfortable doing this ministry. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to learn more about this ministry. We need YOUR help!!!

ADORATION CHAPEL (HO)

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

SUNDAY 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY 5 am, 5 pm

TUESDAY 5 am, 5 pm, 8 pm

WEDNESDAY 11 am

THURSDAY 5 am

SATURDAY 8 am, 12 pm, 1 pm,
2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

ADULT EDUCATION

The Bible in a Year

In English: Father Mike Schmitz

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>

In Spanish: Fray Sergio Serrano

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-espanol-registration>

FROM THE DIALOG

Get the latest Catholic news sent free to your inbox. Sign up today for The Dialog newsletter, The Angelus. You'll receive our newsletter, The Angelus, with the latest diocesan news, spiritual columns and feature stories of interest to people in our schools and parishes. You'll also get breaking news alerts from TheDialog.org and information from our Dialog partners. To sign up, visit thedialog.org and click the "Get Our Newsletter" link at the top of every page. Type in your email address and you're done.

GOLF LEAGUE MEETING

A sign up meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 12 at 5 PM at Jonathan's Landing Golf Course Clubhouse. Nine-hole golf starts WEDNESDAY, April 19 through August 23. Two man teams: individuals will be assigned a partner. A \$50 registration fee includes weekly scorecards, software scorekeeping, end-of-season tournament prizes and a donation to the Holy Cross Youth Group. Maximum number of players is 44. For more information, call Phil Spampinato, 302-382-2979 or Wes Grau 302-270-8111.

- Se les Invita a caminar con Jesús la vía dolorosa dramatizada en vivo y escuche la narración de su Pasión según san Juan en el Servicio de la Oscuridad el Viernes Santo a las 9:00 pm en la parroquia de Holy Cross. Venga y viva ese momento crucial que gana la Salvación para toda la humanidad.
- Todos los miércoles estamos ensayando para las Estaciones de la Cruz, en la parroquia gemela de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel, comenzando el ensayo a las 7:00 pm. Todos los integrantes tienen que inscribirse ya sea conmigo su o o con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti. No se olvide de pedir su hoja de inscripción. Los que van a tomar el bus para la peregrinación el día 1 de abril tiene un costo de \$10.
- **Peregrinación 2023 con el Obispo Koenig:** El obispo Koenig invita a jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias de todas las parroquias y escuelas a unirse a él para la duodécima peregrinación el sábado 1 de abril de 2023. Peregrinos de por toda la diócesis llevarán la cruz peregrina diocesana por las calles de Wilmington con el Obispo como representación de la entrada de Jesús a Jerusalén y su camino el Viernes Santo hacia el Calvario. El día comienza en la parroquia de St. Elizabeth con la oración de apertura y un concierto de The Scally Brothers a las 10:00 am. Habrá confesiones y la Via crucis que los jóvenes de nuestras parroquias presentaran. Concluimos con la Misa de las 4pm en St. Elizabeth. El costo del día es de \$15 por persona o \$45 como máximo por familia (traiga su propio almuerzo). También hay una tarifa de \$ 10 por un autobús. Para registrarse en la parroquia de La Inmaculada Concepción, comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti al 410-482-8939 para obtener más información. Puede registrar a su familia por separado o por su cuenta también.
- Foro Cristiano todos los viernes de 6:00 – 8:00 pm en ELC. Venga escuche, participe y aprenda de nuestra Fe y como vivirla Con el Padre Brennan Ferris y el seminarista Jon Lenus
- **Arte y Ambientación**
- Buscamos a aquellos que voluntariamente deseen ayudar, cooperar y tengan la capacidad de trabajar alegremente en colaboración con otros es imprescindible, que quieran compartir los talentos que Dios les ha dado con sus hermanos y hermanas. Siempre teniendo presente en nuestras mentes y en nuestros corazones que todo lo que hacemos es solamente para la Gloria y honra de Dios. Metas y Propósitos: El Comité de Arte y Ambientación trabaja para crear una ambiente especial de bienvenida en la iglesia para el culto durante todo el año litúrgico. Decoramos apropiadamente con decoro y amor la iglesia durante todo el año para proporcionar un lugar apropiado, hospitalario, conmovedor y estimulante listo para encontrarnos con Cristo en la Eucaristía y con nuestros hermanos. Responsabilidades: Quienes participan en Arte y Ambientación trabajan bajo la dirección del párroco a través de la Oficina parroquial con la directora del Ministerio Hispano y el coordinador de liturgia y culto. Este es un ministerio estacional, lo que significa que nos reunimos según sea necesario para preparar a la iglesia con anticipación a cada tiempo litúrgico (Adviento, Navidad, Tiempo Ordinario, Cuaresma, Semana Santa, Pascua, Pentecostés) y para eventos litúrgicos especiales Primera Comunión y Confirmación. También estamos llamados a bajar y quitar después de cada tiempo litúrgico y prepararnos para la siguiente, limpiar y organizar el lugar de trabajo y donde se guardan las cosas. **TODOS ESTAN INVITADOS A COLABORAR, LA IGLESIA ES DE TODOS.**

ICC- EDUCACIÓN

- Clases de Primera Comunión en ICC: Es el martes 21 de marzo de 6:30 – 7:30 en el salón
- Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para las clases de Educación Religiosa 2023-2024. Es de suma importancia que inscriba a su hijo a tiempo, y de esa manera garantizar materiales, catequistas y salón a tiempo.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next class 3/26/2023

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Registration forms available at holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation

If you have any questions contact Tammy Korosec either 302-674-5787 x122 or tkorosec@holycrossover.org

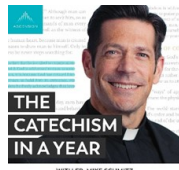
LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class April 12, 2023 at 10:30 am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Early Learning Center.

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF? Contact Tammy Korosec.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

The Catechism
In a Year



www.ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Class:

Next class is 3/26/23 at 3:30 pm or 3/29/23 at 6:00 pm.

Purse Bingo:

Tickets are almost gone—just a few remain. Please join us for our annual Purse Bingo fundraiser on Saturday, March 25.



Doors open at 6 pm and Bingo begins promptly at 7 pm.

Email ldarling@holycrossover.org to reserve your spot. Cost is \$30 per person - includes snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Cash Bar with beer and wine available.

CATHOLIC HEART CAMP COMING TO DOVER

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

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Rice Bowl: FOURTH WEEK OF

LENT SHARING SUCCESS Most people in Turkana, Kenya raise livestock, and a few are farmers. But the hot and dry climate makes this work difficult—and climate change is making it even harder. Rebecca and Lotiang participated in a Catholic Relief Services program that installed a water well and taught them new farming techniques. They can support their family with their crops and are teaching others in their community what they learned. How can you use your skills and knowledge to help others? Visit csrricebowl.org to learn more.

First Communion classes Immaculate Conception: Third Session is Tuesday, March 21st 6:30-7:30 pm in the ICC hall

Registrations for Religious Education for the 2023-2024 school year are now open.

Please get your children registered now, so that we may plan accordingly.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE: (HC AND ICC)

Bishop Koenig invites youth, young adults, and families from all

parishes and schools to join him as we come together for the twelfth Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Pilgrims from across the diocese



will carry the diocesan pilgrimage cross through the streets of Wilmington with the Bishop as a representation of Jesus' entry to Jerusalem and His journey on Good Friday to Calvary. The day begins at St. Elizabeth parish with opening prayer and a concert featuring The Scally Brothers at 10:00 am. We conclude with the 4pm Mass at St. Elizabeth. Don't miss this great opportunity to wrap up your Lenten journey with hundreds of your peers. Cost for the day is \$15 per person or \$45 max per family (bring your own lunch). There is a \$10 fee for the bus.

For Holy Cross: To register, please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossover.org. For more information, visit www.cdowcym.org. Registration deadline is March 20, 2023.

For Immaculate Conception: To register, please contact Alicia Poppiti 410-482-8939 at Immaculate Conception for more information. You may register your family separately/on your own as well. Must register by March 24.

There were several highlights in the week past. The five days went by quickly, the days took on more of a winter feel, the official kickoff to the yearbook sales began with lots of fun and innovative ideas for marketing strategies, our Spring soccer season has begun, our new Pickleball Club enjoyed its first session under the direction of Dr. Vu, and the Holy Cross Running Club under the direction of Mr. Boggs is alive and well even on those windy, brisk mornings even when it would be so much easier to say...“Oh, I’ll go next week...” My heartfelt thanks to our three newest volunteer coaches, Mr. Boggs, Running Club coach, Mrs. Messick, Soccer Coach, and Dr. Vu, Pickleball Coach.

One afternoon every week during the month of March, our Science lab takes on the appearance of a bakery kitchen populated with just under twenty young pastry chefs. This is our second offering of this afternoon gathering where our Cake Decorating class, under the direction of expert decorator, Mrs. Boggs is filled to capacity as our young artists have discovered a new medium for artistic expression; cake icing! It was so much fun for me to attend the session last week when the apron attired young artists took in hand a pastry bag filled with icing and adorned the top of a cupcake as a painter would put paint brush to canvas. Seeing to the final detail of just the right placement for each individual white flower sprinkle or the creative idea of crumbling a broken piece of chocolate cupcake to sprinkle atop the green and yellow rosette frosted atop the chocolate cupcake; it all makes me marvel at the fact that these are children and their level of creativity and accomplishment is beyond impressive, with only a couple of lessons. Alas, no eating. That’s the one hard and fast rule. How is that even possible? Surrounded by nothing but yumminess, and no eating? Not even one quick lick of the fingertip? Nope. The take-away? Well, every young cake artist takes a sweet treat home for the family dessert. Four freshly baked, beautifully frosted cupcakes placed in a commercially produced plastic container just like the ones you’d see in any bakery. A very popular addition to our after-school offerings, Mrs. Boggs is now considering opening the pastry kitchen to our faculty. She has a host of ideas for us. Couple her expertise with her enthusiasm and unbounding energy, it sounds like a great opportunity for good humor, enjoyment, camaraderie, and some well-deserved relaxation.

Last week also presented the opportunity for meeting four prospective new students and families for the upcoming school year. I always enjoy meeting with prospective families who are looking for something else....their present situation in their present school setting is “no longer tolerable,” according to one father of a child I spoke with. Holy Cross offers an alternative.

A glimpse into the alternative was given last week.

A little bit of hustle bustle was in evidence as parents began to gather into the church. I have a love-not so loving relationship with hustle-bustle. It serves to provide an anxious anticipation for the event long prepared for while my mind keeps racing asking myself, why didn’t we start this earlier? While my fingers attempted to dig in behind the newly upholstered cushion of the pew where the much-needed bobby-pins were hiding, Mrs. Gambone came to my rescue with a zip-loc bag of every little notion that might be needed for such an event as this. The girls began to offer assistance to each other; “does this feel tight enough on your head, does it feel like it’s going to slip off?” “Put on your white socks, here put your school shoes under here....” Last minute directions given while our readers and cantor walked in seemingly cool as cucumbers! Offering their assistance, I assured them we had this in hand, and told them to take their places. More and more parents, grandparents were filing in, the girls were huddled off to the side. The students began to file in. It was nearing 1:15. Time to line up.

With only the necessary lighting to create the subdued environment, the candle bearers escorted our first “Mary” up the center aisle of the church.

“It was early Friday morning when I saw my son. That was the first glimpse I had of him since they took him away. His bruised and bleeding body sent a sword of pain deep into my heart, and tears down my cheeks.”

And so began the poignant telling of the story of our Savior and His walk to the hill where he would be crucified. This is the narrative known as Mary’s Way of the Cross. The story of the walk along the Via Dolorosa as seen through the eyes of our suffering Blessed Mother, her anguish and pain retold in the fourteen stations as another “little Mary” walked slowly up the aisle before taking her place at one of the stations where the cruel manner in which Jesus treated is depicted.

“The Mary’s Way Stations were beautiful, and Ava’s voice was just angelic! ..,you could have heard a pin drop. I think everyone, parents and students, were just in awe.” Email from a HCS teacher

With the clouds beginning to darken outdoors, it provided the perfect setting, the light from the candles provided just enough light as the silhouette of Mary walking to the tenth station... the eleventh station...was quite moving.

“My pain for him was unbearable. I wanted to take the cross and carry it myself. But I knew this had to be, so I walked on silently.” ...The fourteenth station, Jesus is Laid in the Tomb.

Ava fills the church with her gifted voice, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” A few moments of reflective silence. With the candle bearers flanking the exit, our students recess in silence.

I heard one parent remark with one word; “awesome”.

A brief glimpse into one day in the life of *the alternative*.

mental confession relating to child abuse and neglect." As such, Morrison's bill would require priests to "report child abuse and neglect or to give or accept evidence in a judicial proceeding relating to child abuse or neglect."

However, the Diocese of Wilmington – under Bishop William E. Koenig – has stated that Catholic priests would not conform to the law, which would violate a "fundamental aspect" of the Church's teaching.

"The Sacrament of Confession and its seal of confession is a fundamental aspect of the Church's sacramental theology and practice," read the statement. "It is nonnegotiable."

Koenig added that "No Catholic priest or bishop would ever break the seal of confession under any circumstances." To do so would lead to the cleric incurring an "automatic excommunication," said Koenig, which could "only be pardoned by the Pope himself."

"It would be a clear violation of the First Amendment for the government to interfere in this most sacred and ancient practice of our faith," he added.

HB 74 would not meaningfully help reduce any risk to "minors and vulnerable adults," added the Diocese of Wilmington, since "priests are already mandatory reporters under Delaware's child abuse reporting law in all circumstances other than the Sacrament of Confession."

The diocesan policies require clergy to report "suspected incidents of child abuse" to the proper civil authorities, added Koenig.

With this in mind, he stated that the proposed bill would "infringe on the rights of a variety of faith communities," but would also result in "a number of unintended consequences." These, said Koenig, would include the legal requirement of something which could not practically be done, since "the overwhelming majority of sacramental confessions are anonymous and wholly impossible to meet without violating a fundamental tenet of our faith."

"The Diocese of Wilmington considers the protection of the vulnerable to be one of the most important aims of public policy," concluded Koenig. "However, this legislation would not advance that vital objective."

The diocese's statement is supported by the Church's Code of Canon Law which notes in Canon 983 §1 that:

The sacramental seal is inviolable; therefore it is absolutely forbidden for a confessor to betray in any way a penitent in words or in any manner and for any reason.

In 2019, the Vatican's Apostolic Penitentiary re-issued this teaching in a Note, stating that "[t]he inviolable secrecy of the Confession comes directly from the revealed divine law and has its roots in the very nature of the sacrament, to the point of not admitting any exception in the ecclesial sphere, nor, even less, in the civil sphere."

The accompanying presentation of the Note pointed out how the seal of the confessional was incomparable "to the professional secrecy proper to certain professional groups (doctors, pharmacists, lawyers, etc.)" a distinction which is important "in order to prevent secular laws from applying to the seal, which is inviolable, the exceptions legitimately applied to professional secrecy."

As St. Thomas Aquinas writes, since the priest is the minister of God and acts in persona Christi during the confession, he must act as God does and not violate the secret of the confessional:

The priest should conform himself to God, whose minister he is. But God does not reveal the sins which are made known to him in confession, but hides them. Neither, therefore, should the priest reveal them.

Wilmington is not the only diocese currently facing a threat to the seal of confession. The state legislatures of Washington and Vermont are also discussing bills on mandatory reporting of sexual abuse involving children.

Spokane's Bishop Thomas Daly stated last week that if the bill proposed in the state House, HB 1098, were enacted, the Catholic clergy would refuse to comply. "Priests and bishops will go to jail rather than break the seal of confession," the bishop declared. "I'm confident that the priests in [the Diocese of Spokane] and my brother bishops would do that, so sacred is that bond."

Daly warned that the bill would have a devastating impact on the diocesan clergy themselves. "I worry that that bond of trust that people have given their life for would suddenly seem to be up for renegotiation," he said.