



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 20, 2022

3rd Sunday 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

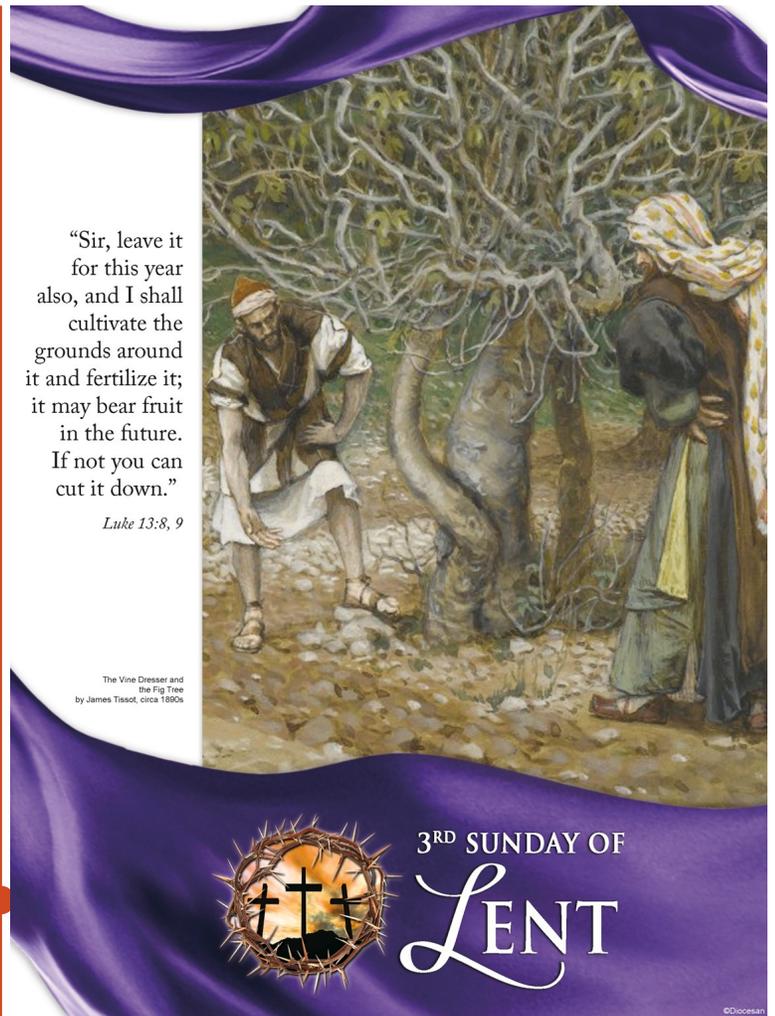
Monday-Saturday, 8 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day,
MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day,
Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



“Sir, leave it
for this year
also, and I shall
cultivate the
grounds around
it and fertilize it;
it may bear fruit
in the future.
If not you can
cut it down.”

Luke 13:8, 9

The Vine Dresser and
the Fig Tree
by James Tissot, circa 1890s



3RD SUNDAY OF

LENT

©Diocesan

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.

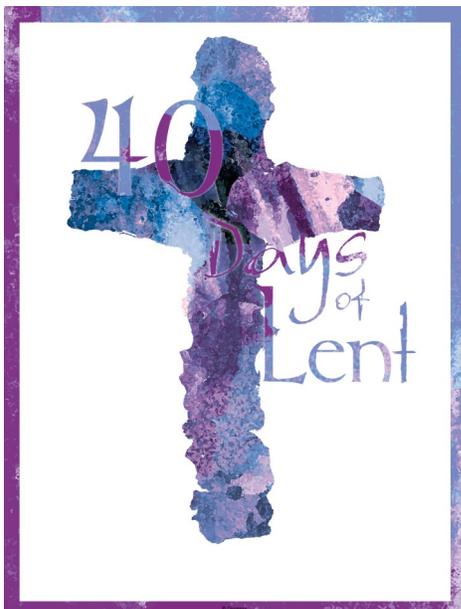
Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

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)

March 6, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$25,614	\$26,000	(\$386)
YTD	\$947,185	\$936,200	\$10,985
Needs	\$1,217	\$1,480	(\$263)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending March 6, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,876
2nd collection	\$383

For tax statements for ICC, please contact the ICC Parish Office.

Tax Statements

The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2021 year. If we have your email in our records, this information will be emailed to you by the end of January. If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org. Thank you.

Dear Parishioners,

Joseph. Saturday, March 19, is a solemnity — a high holy day — in the midst of the Season of Lent. It is one of two days during the entirety of the Season of Lent when the Alleluia may be acclaimed and the Gloria may be prayed. The day I am speaking of is the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary.

Mary. Friday, March 25, is a solemnity — a high holy day — in the midst of the Season of Lent. It is one of two days during the entirety of the Season of Lent when the Alleluia may be acclaimed and the Gloria may be prayed. The day I am speaking of is the Annunciation of the Lord, when the Angel of the Lord came unto Mary announcing that she would be the Mother of our Lord.

Joseph and Mary. In this column (part one of two) want to write about the intertwining story about Mary and Joseph as it concerns the coming of Christ into this world. I also want to use this column to put a little more focus on St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, Foster-Father of Christ, and Protector of the Church. It always seems to me that St. Joseph is sometimes lost in the saintly brilliance of Mar and overlooked in the devotion of the faithful.

Kind of Like DVD Extras. So, how will this be different than the usual telling about Mary and Joseph, the coming of Christ into the world, etc.? Good question. The good answer is that I will be using additional sources from the treasury of the Church's tradition to bring some additional texture to this beautiful story from salvation history. Specifically, I will be adding texts from *The Protoevangelium of St. James* (a second-century text) and *Joseph the Carpenter* — just about every quoted text will be from these two sources. For the Annunciation, I will stick primarily to the Scripture from St. Luke. As you read on, many parts of the story of Mary and Joseph and the Birth of the Savior will sound very familiar but with additional flavoring. Other parts may be entirely new to you.

Young Mary. Bring the story up to speed: Mary was the daughter of Ss. Ann and Joachim; she was immaculately conceived in the womb of St. Ann, and born on September 8, exactly nine months after her Immaculate Conception on December 8. Mary was presented in the Temple at age three, according to the *Protoevangelium*. At her presentation, the High Priest exclaimed: “*The Lord God has exalted your name among all generations. In you the Lord will disclose his redemption to the people of Israel during the last days.*” After this, he “*sat her down on the third step of the altar, and the Lord showered favor on her. And she danced with her feet, and the whole house of Israel loved her.*” After this Mary spent most of her time in the service at Temple (the holy building, not the University)

A Tweet Announcement. The first significant reference to Joseph before he came to be with Mary comes from the *Protoevangelium of St. James*. In this text, it is noted that the Priests of the Temple were debating what to do about Mary, who served in the Temple, now that she was getting older. And suddenly an angel appeared, addressing Zechariah the High Priest, saying “*Zechariah! Zechariah! Go out and assemble the widowers of the people and have them each bring a staff. Mary will become the wife of the one to whom the Lord God shows a sign.*” And so, the trumpet was blown and the message went out (this was the ancient form of tweeting).

Staff Meeting. The text then says that “*Joseph... threw down his carpenter's axe and left for the meeting.*” The High Priest collected the staffs brought by each man present. He prayed. And after he prayed, he handed the staffs back to each man. When he handed Joseph's staff back to him, a dove flew out from

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Mano Salla	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 8Is
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

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for an in-person or virtual experience getting closer to your spouse? Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! There will be an in-person weekend in Wildwood, NJ May 13-15, 2022. Many more options for virtual events can be found on our website www.wwme-delmar.org. For additional information please call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome the following who recently registered with the parish.

- *Carlos and Marie Manriquez*
- *Marikis and Angelita Alvarez*
- *Robenson, Rachele, Chellson, Chedson, and Christopher Charles*

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the family of:

- *Teresa Ann Crenshaw*
- May the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

RECONCILIATION FOR LENT

Holy Cross is offering Reconciliation on Friday evenings at 5:30 pm during Lent. We all will provide our normal Saturday mornings from after the 8 am Mass until 10 am.

We will host our Lenten Deanery Reconciliation Service at Holy Cross on Monday, April 4, at 7 pm with visiting priests.

Holy Cross will also hold a Reconciliation Monday on April 11 from 3 pm to 8 pm with one or two priests only. More details to follow.

READINGS FOR MARCH 20

3RD SUNDAY LENT

FIRST READING: JOSHUA 5:9-12

The shame of Egypt is taken away but not the memory of Egypt, which will sustain the new life.

SECOND READING : 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

The creation of humanity is not yet complete but it continue as an act of reconciliation in Christ.

GOSPEL: LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

The story of the prodigal son is not jut his story. It is the story of a whole family; indeed it is the story of the family of humankind.

LENTEN SERVICES

During Lent Holy Cross will offer the daily 8 am Mass. At this time we will not offer the 12:10 Mass.



Confessions will be heard on Friday evenings at 5:30 pm at Holy Cross.

Stations of the Cross will take place at HC and ICC at 7 pm on Fridays during Lent.

KOF C FISH FRY (HC)

Our Knights of Columbus will host a Fish Fry every Friday in Lent at Holy Cross. It will be held from 4 pm to 6 pm in the Parish Hall. Take out is also available.

The menu is:

25 March: Fish & Chips, Cole Slaw, dessert.

1 April: Baked or fried fish, Mac & Cheese, stewed tomatoes, Cole Slaw, dessert.

8 April: To be determined based on availability.

Cost is \$10.00 per person, children under 8 free, and families \$25.00. At each dinner tickets for a Lladro figurine of "Pan de Vida" will sell for \$10.00 each or two for \$15.00. Drawing to be held on 8 April at the last Lenten dinner.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Figuring out blame is a trap that it is easy for even loving couples to fall into. One of the sweetest phrases I hear from my husband is, "Honey, you were right." Said honestly, it can be a healing balm.

PARENTING POINTERS

Parenthood is not limited to one gender. Male and females both carry responsibility for their child. If you are the primary caregiver, give yourself a break. If you are not a single parent, perhaps you can provide some respite for a single parent that you know.

9 GRADES OF PRAYER

Our Spiritual Support Group has resumed again on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. We will meet in the St. Luke's room at the ELC watching and discussing The 9 Grades of Prayer. All are welcome!

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH

21 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Charlie Ross

22 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am DM of Dukuray Family

23 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Raymond Cola

24 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Gertrude Jackson

ICC 6:30 pm For the People

25 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Donald Peer

HC, ICC 7 pm Stations of the Cross

26 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Jane Jones

HC 5 pm Gregory & Brian Shouldis & Debra Shouldis Petrovich

27 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Frank Tenusak

ICC 8:30 am Sachiko Saus

HC 9:30 am Looney Family

ICC 11 am Rosemary Vasquez

HC 11:30 am Earl Francis

ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 11-13, 2022 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

HOLY CROSS MAR 26/27, 2022

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM D. Darling C. Helwig A. Zink
L. Darling F. Hettinger E. Zink
F. Ernst

LECTORS

F. Urick
V. Viddy

7:30 AM R. Fritzsche M. Thompson B. Richardson
R. O'Neill A. Wyllie L. Richardson
P. Sheldon

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM K. Kelly R. Willey M. Milligan
D. McGinnis J. Zajac E. Seelig
M. Sossich J. Seeney

LECTORS

S. Ford
M. Sherlock

11:30 AM R. Ramirez R. Richards K. Espinosa
B. Guzman E. Guzman C. Geronimo

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM G. Godfrey

LECTORS

J. Tormey, Jr.

11:00 AM B. Van-
vessan

LECTORS

S. Tucker

1:00 PM To be deter-
mined

LECTORS

**ATTENTION ALL EXTRA-ORDINARY
MINISTERS OF COMMUNION**

Parishioners in need of our Homebound Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds, and we need more EM's who are willing to become part of our homebound ministry. We serve nursing homes, assisted living facilities, the hospital, and those at home.

Please consider joining this ministry. We will train you and have you shadow another EM to get you ready. Call the Parish Office so we can get you started. Please pray to discern if this ministry would be for you. We need your help!!

Call 302-674-5787,

ext. 110 or 113 to leave your name.

PURSE BINGO

Purse Bingo: Tickets are going fast...reserve yours now!!



Join us Saturday evening, April 2 for a fun-filled evening, and a chance to win a great purse! Cost is \$25 for 10 games, door prizes and light refreshments served. 50/50 and Chinese Auction chances for sale. Must be 18 to play. Please see Linda Darling for tickets - tables of 8 may be reserved.

ldarling@holycrossdover.org

Proceeds will go to help our high school teens attend Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer in Greensboro, NC. Thank you for your support.

HOLY CROSS GOLF LEAGUE 2022

(Note date change for sign up meeting)

A sign up meeting will take place on **Wednesday, April 13 at 5 PM** at Jonathan's Landing Golf Course club house. Nine-hole golf will be played on WEDNESDAYS, starting April 20 through August 31. Two person teams: individuals will be assigned a partner. For more information, call Phil Spampinato, 302-382-2979 or Wes Grau at 302-270-8111.

Registration: \$40 per person covers costs, league prizes, an end of season tournament and a donation to Holy Cross Youth Group. Payment by cash or check is due at sign-up.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you. **We really need volunteers to take some time on Saturday and Sunday. Please consider taking one hour in the chapel to spend with Jesus.**

SUNDAY 10 am, 12 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm

TUESDAY 2 pm

SATURDAY 5 am, 6 am, 8 am, 12 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

Lent is a wonderful time to spend more time with Jesus in the Adoration Chapel. Stop by for an hour each day....sign up to take one of the open hours.....grow closer to Our Lord during this Lenten time.....you'll be glad you did!!

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANA

- Ensayo para la Vía Crucis como parte de uno de los eventos de la peregrinación con nuestro obispo Koenig el sábado, 9 de abril, 2022 2n Wilmington. Sera los miércoles a las 7:00 pm en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel. 522 Main St. Marydel, MD 21649. Se les pide llegar a tiempo.
- Confirmación para adultos: Si usted es mayor de 18 años de edad y no se ha recibido su sacramento de la Confirmación las clases de preparación, empezaran pronto. Habra Confirmaciones de Adultos Hispano el domingo 10 de Julio. Para mas información llame a la oficina de la parroquia al 302-674-5787 ext. 118.
- Cuaresma: El Miércoles de Ceniza y el Viernes Santo son días obligatorios de ayuno y abstinencia para los católicos. Además, los viernes durante la Cuaresma son días obligatorios de abstinencia. Las normas son obligatorias desde la edad de 18 años hasta los 59. Ayuno. Cuando se ayuna, se le permite a la persona comer una comida completa, así como dos comidas más pequeñas que juntas no equivalgan a una comida completa. Abstinencia. Las normas sobre la abstinencia de carne son vinculantes para los miembros de la iglesia católica desde los 14 años en adelante.
- Foro Cristiano Todos los viernes de 6-8 de la noche en el ELC. Venga y viva su Fe Católica.
- Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA ICC

Todas las clases se reúnen de 9:40 a 10:50 los domingos en las aulas. Por favor estacionese , lleve a sus hijos al salón y recójalos frente al salón. Padres, por favor mantengan a sus hijos en casa si están enfermos, tienen fiebre o no se sienten bien.

La Inscripción para el año escolar 2022-2023 está abierta el 1 de marzo de 2022. Las inscripciones se están disponibles a todas las familias. Tiene que inscribir a su hijo cada año Por favor devolver las aplicaciones a Alicia Poppiti antes del 1 de mayo para que podamos estar seguros de tener suficientes maestros y espacio en los salones.

Preparación para la Primera Comunión: próxima sesión, martes 22 de marzo de 2022 de 6:30 p. m. a 7:30 p. m. en el salón. Por favor, se puntual.

Preparación para la Confirmación de Jóvenes: la próxima sesión será el Retiro el sábado, 2 de abril de 2022 de 9:00 AM -2:00 PM en el salón . Es solamente para los adolescentes candidatos a la Confirmación . Asegúrese de programar los horarios de las entrevistas.

Peregrinación diocesana: el obispo Koenig invita a jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias de todas las parroquias y escuelas a unirse a él nos reunimos para la undécima peregrinación anual el sábado 9 de abril de 2022. Peregrinos de toda la diócesis llevarán la cruz de peregrinación 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 a las 10 am en la parroquia St. Elizabeth con la oración de apertura y un concierto de The Scally Brothers a las 10:30 am. Concluimos con Misa a las 5pm en St. Elizabeth. No se pierda esta gran oportunidad de concluir su camino de Cuaresma con cientos de compañeros. El costo del día es de \$15 por persona o \$45 como máximo por familia (familia inmediata). Para registrarse, comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti al 410-482-8939. El transporte en autobús está disponible por orden de llegada por \$ 10, la inscripción de la peregrinación debe llenarse y entregarse. Lleve su almuerzo, bebidas ni refrigerios, y debe traerlos con usted. La inscripción está disponible a través de la Sra. Poppiti y la fecha límite es el 1 de abril de 2022. Inscripciones

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class: March 27 3:30 to 5:30 pm

Next Class: April 10

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class March 13

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

Adult Eductaion (HC)

The Bible in a Year Podcast

“In The Bible in a Year podcast, Fr. Mike Schmitz guides you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes. Using an exclusive reading plan rooted in The Bible Timeline (a ground-breaking approach to understanding salvation history developed by Biblical scholar Jeff Cavins) you won’t just read the Bible ... you’ll finally understand how all the pieces fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!” Also available in Spanish led by Father Sergio Serrano. See the links below:

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>



FREE STREAMING *this Lent!*



Scan This Code With Your Phone's Camera To Get **FREE STREAMING** to *St. Teresa of Avila's* **NINE GRADES of PRAYER**



YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Classes:

Next classes are March 27 for Sunday class and March 30 for Wednesday class.

Parent Meeting :

For those parents unable to attend last week's meeting, please stop in to see Mrs. Darling to get revised information on Confirmation and to sign up for your child's interview.

Youth Group:

Next Youth Group Meeting- please mark your calendar for March 26. Junior High - 3-4:30

Work Camp in Dover

We have a large group of teens and adults who are traveling to Dover to help our residents. They will be working June 27 to June 30. If you have projects that they would be able to assist you with, please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossdover.org. Painting, yard work, organizing, small repairs, cleaning - whatever you have that you are not able to do on your own, they would love to help.

SRE (IC)

All classes are meeting from 9:40-10:50am every Sunday in classrooms. Please park, walk your children to hall, and pick up in front of the hall. Please be on time and pick up no later than 10:55am, our Catechist need to attend Mass at 11am. Masks are still required for students and teachers. Parents, please keep your children home if they have a fever, or they are not feeling well.

Registration for 2022-2023 school year is open.

Registrations have been handed to all families. Please return to Alicia Poppiti by May 1st so that we can be sure to have enough teachers and space in classrooms.

Sacraments: 1st Communion Prep: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30-7:30pm in the hall. Please be on time.

Youth confirmation prep- Next session is the Confirmation Retreat on April 2, 2022 at 9am-2pm in the hall. This is for the youth only.

Diocesan Pilgrimage: Bishop Koenig invites youth, young adults, and families from all parishes to join him as we come together for the eleventh annual Pilgrimage on Saturday, April 9, 2022. Pilgrims from across the diocese will carry the diocesan pilgrimage cross through the streets of Wilmington. The day begins at 10 am at St. Elizabeth parish with opening prayer and a concert featuring The Scally Brothers at 10:30 am. We conclude with Mass at 5pm at St. Elizabeth. Don't miss this great opportunity. Cost for the day is \$15 per person or \$45 max per family (immediate family). To register, please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939. Bus transportation is available on first come basis for \$10, and registration is due with Pilgrimage. Lunch, drinks and snacks are not provided, and you need to bring with you. Registration is available through Mrs. Poppiti and deadline is April 1, 2022.

Right now, it is very difficult to concentrate on the task at hand. It is March 12. The meteorological season of winter has concluded. It is snowing and blowing a gale. There is snow on the ground. The grass is covered and it is just plain cold outside.

There is a season for everything. As the songwriter pontificates, “there is a season for everything under heaven.”

Right now, we find ourselves well in the throes of the re-registration/new registration season. Thanks be to God; we are experiencing a successful season thus far. Mrs. Arndt gets so excited when she finds a new family or two on our fancy online registration program! It is heartening that the vast majority of our existing families have sought to re-enroll their children for the upcoming year. It is always disappointing when our military families receive orders to report elsewhere, but we have learned to expect that and are sad to see them go. But; the silver lining reveals itself in mid-summer when new families arrive and set up housekeeping on base or in the surrounding area. Most have made prearrangements for enrollment, and I always look forward to meeting them. It is an established fact, nationwide, that Catholic education continues to be, by far the very best option for educating children.

Marketing is an expensive proposition. I hate to sound like the skeptic, but it’s a financial risk. The effectiveness of a marketing campaign can easily turn up a lukewarm response. Colorful brochures, newspaper ads, roadway advertising, radio and television commercials are nice. Nice and costly. We have found over and over again that the best form of “advertising” comes in the form of the satisfied customer. Word of mouth in the workplace, in the neighborhood developments, within the extended family, and in our alumni; the word of mouth is our most effective mode for marketing HC school. Countless are the times when I’ve been told by a prospective parent that a colleague “sends her kids to Holy Cross, and they love it here.”

I meet with every single new family. It is so important to me that I have the opportunity to personally meet with the parents who have taken initial steps in providing their child with the gift of a Catholic education. To form that initial mutually supportive relationship is sending the message that that we take the education and formation of their child as seriously as they do. Like Kodak, a Catholic education is the gift that keeps on giving. For a lifetime.

Administrators in Catholic schools receive a weekly communication from the Superintendent entitled Principals Notes. Dr. DeAngelo provides a myriad of useful information to guide administrators in their leadership of the schools in the Diocese. Several weeks ago, the Principals Notes included a three-part article on the reasons why a Catholic education still matters.

As we navigate the seas of the enrollment process and set our sails for another year, I offer for your reflection a portion of the article, authored by Reverend Ronald J. Nuzzi, of Notre Dame University and shared by Dr. De Angelo.

1. An Incarnational View of the World

Catholic school students learn that God is present and active in their lives and in the world. They learn to recognize the “footprints of God” in their daily experiences, especially in the midst of life’s challenges. *They see the signs of God’s love around them, and become instruments of God’s grace in their own neighborhoods, communities, and the world.*

2. Immersion in the Paschal Mystery

Our lives are a series of small and not so small dyings and risings, In union with the Paschal Mystery, we realize there is redemptive power in suffering, and in the power of the cross. In it lies the answer to the mystery of all of life’s successes and failures. In the experience of the Paschal Mystery, we also realize the need for community. Like Jesus we encounter our own Simons of Cyrene to help us along the way. Wins and losses on the athletic field, As and Fs in class, and laughter and tears in our lives are the way we participate in Jesus’ dying and rising.

3. The Value of Relationships as a Reflection of the Divine

Catholic school students learn to experience God’s grace and presence in their lives through their relationships with family, friends, and teachers. The loving and supporting relationships they experience are reflections of the love and life-giving dynamic of the Trinity. As a community we celebrate our successes and achievements. We share grief and downfalls. We unite together in solidarity, and even challenge each other to become better reflections of the Divine. We are made for community.

4. Discipline as a Faith Expectation

Catholic schools promote self-discipline through the clarity of moral vision that is based on the Gospel. Students are challenged to be Christ-like in word and action. They are asked to examine their choices and action in light of the Ten Commandments and the Gospel law of love. They are given a theological foundation for ethical behavior. Students are not good because they act in accord with rules and expectations. Rather, because students are good, i.e., sons and daughters of God, they are expected to act and make choices that are in keeping with this dignity.

5. The Centrality of Arts, Ritual Drama, Music to the Life of Faith

Through Catholic education, students are exposed to the richness of the religious tradition. Music, Art, Literature, Drama, and Ritual are rooted in the rich history of the Church, and find their truest glory as an expression of divine praise.

6. The Fullness of the Catholic Identity at the Heart of the Church

Catholic education has always been at the heart of the Catholic mission. Catholic education, and the students who are the products of it, have been called “the greatest work of the Church.” They have been entrusted with the fullness of faith and have been charged with the mission of evangelization.

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the wood of the staff and perched on Joseph's head. The High Priest said, "*Joseph, Joseph, you've been chosen by lot to take the virgin of the Lord into your care and protection.*" I have to pause here and say that alternate texts it is said that the staff grew a lily at the sign of the Lord's approval. In truth, that is the version that stuck, as just about every statue you see of St. Joseph, he is bearing a staff with a lily sprouting. Much like a competition among monstrous wives of 60s TV sitcoms, the winner is Lily!

Not Quite the Dating Game. Now, so often when God calls someone to a special role there is a resistance or reluctance to accept the role (we see this with Isaiah, Jeremiah, St. Peter, etc.); it is no difference with St. Joseph. St. Joseph, who was a widower (and much older than Mary) responded, "*I'm an old man and she's a young woman. I'm afraid that I'll become the butt of jokes among the people of Israel.*" The High Priest warned St. Joseph of the ramifications of rejecting God's call, so Joseph being more worried than a porcupine rummaging through a balloon factory, "*took her into his care and protection.*" In the ancient text *Joseph the Carpenter* we are told that the High Priest advised Mary, "*Go with Joseph, and be with him till the time of your marriage.*" What did Joseph say to Mary, well, it wasn't the romantic set of words; he said, "*Mary, I've gotten you from the temple of the Lord, but now I'm leaving you at home. I'm going away to build houses, but I'll come back to you. [In the meantime] the Lord will protect you.*" Yep, if he were Bachelor #3 on *The Dating Game*, it might not have ended well for him.

A Veiled Request. In any, Joseph takes off to do his home building and carpentry work for awhile. While he is gone, the Council of Priests at the Temple decreed, "*Let us make a veil for the Temple.*" Let me translate this statement into clearer word; what they meant was "Hey, who can we get to sew/weave a nice veil for the Temple? Hey, Mary is at home with nothing to do, let's ask her." And so along with a few other maidens, Mary was asked to work on this large veil (curtain). She was given charge of the purple and the red threads of her portion of the veil. Tradition, indicates that this veil was the curtain of the Temple that was torn in half on the day of Christ's death on the Cross.

The Annunciation. In any event, Mary went home and began sewing up a storm in purple and red. While she was sewing an angel of the Lord appeared to her. As it relates this in Luke 1:28-31, "*And coming to her, [the Angel] said, 'Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.'*" But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "*Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus.*" After this same scene in the *Protoevangelium of St. James*, it says that Mary immediately went back to finishing her sewing (weaving) and took her work up to the high priest. The high priest joyously accepted Mary's work and added: "*Mary, the Lord God has extolled your name and so you will be blessed by all the generations of the earth.*" The *Protoevangelium*, like Scripture, then finds Mary visiting Elizabeth for three month.

I will continue next week with more on St. Joseph and Mary.

Yours in Christ,
James S. Lentini
Pastor