



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 27, 2022

4th 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

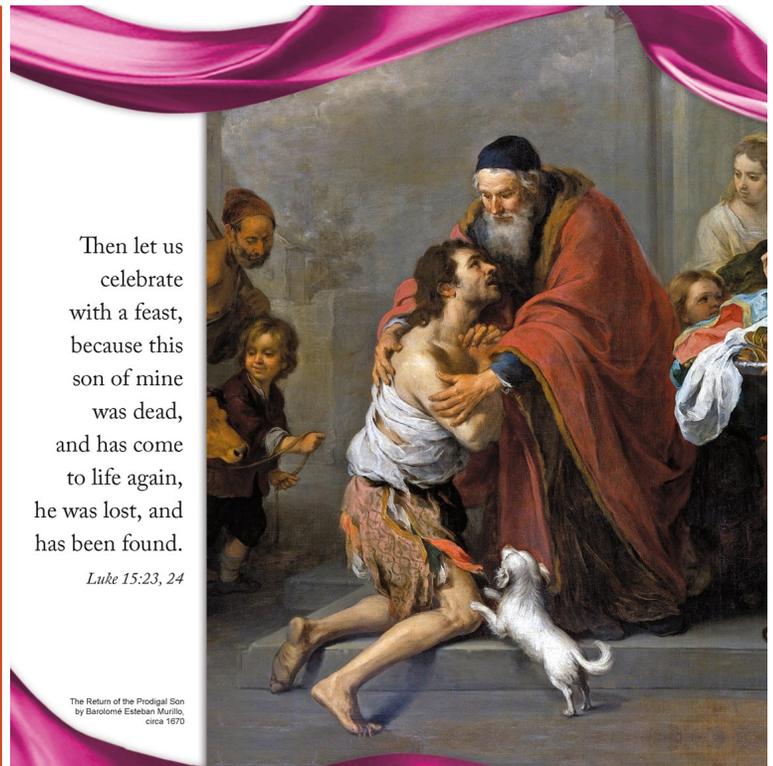
Monday-Saturday, 8 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day,
MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day,
Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



Then let us
celebrate
with a feast,
because this
son of mine
was dead,
and has come
to life again,
he was lost, and
has been found.

Luke 15:23, 24

The Return of the Prodigal Son
by Barolomé Esteban Murillo,
circa 1670

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



4TH SUNDAY OF

LENT

©Cicco

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.

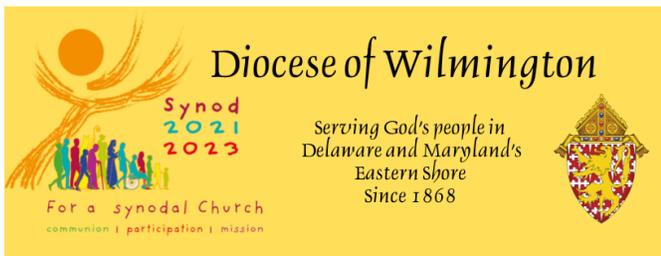
Sacrament of Holy Orders. If you believe you have, or someone you know has, a vocation to the Priesthood or Diaconate, please contact one of our parish priests.

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.

SYNOD 2021-2023

Pope Francis wants to hear from the whole Church about what is happening in local and parish communities of faith. He and Bishop Koenig would like to know what you think we are doing well and what we need to improve here at Holy Cross to help make our parishes better. The way he has proposed doing this is a synodal process. Holy Cross will have a Listening Session on Sunday, May 1, 2022 from 3 Pm - to 6:00 pm in the parish Hall. If you are interested you need to register at Holy Cross website using the following link. Please complete the form once you sign in.

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/CDOW1/HolyCrossParishSynodListeningSessionRegistrationForm>



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

March 13, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$22,815	\$26,000	(\$3,185)
YTD	\$970,000	\$962,200	\$7,800
Needs	\$942	\$1,480	(\$538)
Ukraine Relief	\$13,209		

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending March 13, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,486
2nd collection	\$1,052

Dear Parishioners,

This bulletin is a continuation of last week's column about the intertwining story about Mary and Joseph as it concerns the coming of Christ into this world.

Surprise. Meanwhile, let's get back to St. Joseph! After being "on the road," St. Joseph came back home and Mary was in her sixth month of pregnancy. When St. Joseph came in and found her pregnant. *"He threw himself to the ground on sackcloth, and began to cry bitterly: 'What sort of face should I present to the Lord God? What prayer can I say on her behalf since I received her as a virgin from the temple of the Lord God and didn't protect her?'"*

What to do? Joseph became frightened, as he didn't want to disclose what Mary said for some would deem it blasphemy which would subject Mary to a death sentence, so he thought about divorcing her on the QT. But then an Angel visited Joseph in a dream saying, *"Don't be afraid of this girl, because the child in her is the holy spirit's doing. She will have a son and you will name him Jesus-the name means 'he will save his people from their sins.'"*

Joseph, Mary – and the Midwife? So, Joseph welcomes Mary into his home, fully, moving from betrothal to marriage. St. Joseph then had to go down to Bethlehem to enroll his family in the Roman census, and the Protoevangelium of St. James says that he planned to enroll Mary as his wife, so it can be assumed that prior to this moment Mary and Joseph had been married. While on their travels, it came time for Mary to give birth, Joseph secured the service of a midwife. Bet you never saw that piece in your nativity set! After the birth of Jesus, the midwife exclaimed, "Today my eyes have seen a miracle in that salvation has come to Israel." The midwife then found her young friend Salome and shared with her the Good News of the birth of the messiah, she remained with Mary and Joseph to assist with Jesus.

The Devil and Herod. Then the Wise Men

came from the east and King Herod got wind that they were looking for a new born King. He asked the Wise Men to report back to him when they found this new born King, but once they encountered Jesus, they returned to their country not telling Herod anything. So, instead, "Satan went and told this to Herod the Great" and Herod then, "dispatched his executioners with instructions to kill all the infants two years old and younger."

Mary and Elizabeth Take Action. Word of this reach St. Joseph, and he was worried. He told Mary, "that infants were being killed" and Mary, frightened, then "took her child, wrapped him in strips of cloth, and put him in a feeding trough [manger] used by cattle." Her cousin Elizabeth, also feared that Herod also be looking for her son John [the Baptist], so, "she took him and went up into the hill country... and said out loud, 'Mountain of God, please take in a mother with her child' ... and suddenly the mountain was split open and let them in [and] a messenger of the Lord [accompanied] them for protection."

Joseph and Egypt. What did St. Joseph do? Well, St. Joseph, "that pious old man, [who had been] warned of this by a dream... rose and took Mary [along with] Salome ... their fellow-traveller. Having therefore set out from home, Joseph [took them away] into Egypt, and remained there [for] one whole year, until the Herod's hatred passed away."

Between 12 and 30. After this scriptural moment, the next story regarding Jesus, Mary and Joseph is that of Jesus being lost at the Passover festival at age 12, and found by his parents in the Temple. But not much more is told about Jesus after that until he is age 30. Mary is found in a few more moments of scrip-

(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
holycrossover.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.wvme-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.

- *Justin, Emily, Moses and Lloyd McNatt*
- *Robert and Eleanor Smith*
- *Edward and Margaret Quinn, Jr.*
- *Matthew, Krystle and Elijah Bartow*

RECENTLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest baptized member:

- *Kaelyn Layug Gutierrez*

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the family of

- *Theodore F. Morris*

who recently passed away.

May the Souls of the Faithful departed, rest in peace, Amen.

SAMARITANS

Our Samaritan Outreach will prepare Easter Baskets for the needy in our church and area. To do so, we are in need of hams to give to each family. Hams can be left in the freezer inside the Samaritan door located next to the rectory.

We could also use some canned corn or canned green beans. These can be left on the table in the same area or in the entrance area of the church.

READINGS FOR APRIL 3 5TH SUNDAY LENT

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43:16-21

One phrase among many from this magnificent reading jumps out at us when God says, "there is no need to think about what was done before".

SECOND READING : PHILIPPIANS 3:8-14

Paul reflects on what God's forgiveness means for us.

GOSPEL: JOHN 8:1-11

A woman who has been caught in the act of committing a serious sin is not condemned by Jesus. Instead, she is told to go and sin no more.

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.

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

K OF 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:

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

What needs to die in you to bear fruit in your marriage? Pride? The desire to always be right? Wanting stuff your way? Avoiding decisions? Humble yourself today.

PARENTING POINTERS

As parents we might be tempted to judge our children by looks, talent, athleticism, temperament... Seek to look into their heart – even when they do something wrong.

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

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH/APRIL

28 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Joe Palinski
29 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Alice M. Rippert
30 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	George Bugglin
31 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	David Kiessling
ICC 6:30 pm	For the People
1 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	June Clacher
HC,ICC 7 pm	Stations of the Cross
2 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Olechnowicz Family (DM)
HC 5 pm	Ted Martino
3 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Ann Bajor
ICC 8:30 am	Cathy White
HC 9:30 am	Mark Dominic Konrad
ICC 11 am	Lillian Weaver
HC 11:30 am	John Iavecchia (LI)
ICC 1 pm	For the People

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

and discussing The 9 Grades of Prayer. All are welcome!

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.

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 man-

tengan 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 5 de abril 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
 Contact Tammy Korosec at either
 tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787
 X 122 with questions or concerns

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

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Last class April 10.
 Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF for next
 year, please contact Tammy Korosec at either
 tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787
 X 122

Adult Education (HC)

The Bible in a Year Podcast

In English:

Father Mike Schmitz
 https://
 media.ascensionpress.com/all-
 bible-in-a-year-episodes/



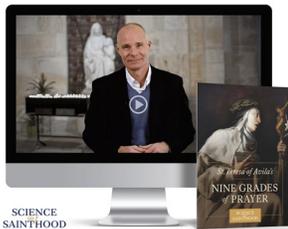
In Spanish:

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



SAVE THE DATE



Vacation Bible School July 11-15th, 2022
Ages PK4-Grade 4
Registrations accepted after June 1, 2022
Capacity is limited
Volunteers will be needed!

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Classes:

Our final classes for this year take place on Sun-
 day, March 27 at 2 pm and 4 pm
 and Wednesday, March 30 at 6 pm.

Work Camp in Dover

We have a large group of teens and adults who
 are traveling to Dover to help our resi-
 dents. 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 Dar-
 ling 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.

Hallow: Catholic Prayer and Meditation
 App. hallow.com to check out more about this
 prayer and meditation app.

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 fami-
 lies. 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,
 April 5, 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. Pil-
 grims from across the diocese will carry the diocesan
 pilgrimage cross through the streets of Wil-
 mington. 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.

Last weekend---snow. This weekend the spring like temperatures are bringing out the happy in all of us. Last Thursday winterlike temperatures and day-long rainfall put a literal damper on our St. Patrick's Day parade. But, twenty-four short hours later we were enjoying the sunshine in full support of our awesome marching band as they treated us all to a mini-parade in honor of the feast day. Our thanks to St. Patrick (Deacon Bob) for leading us in parade. We are grateful to St. Patrick and St. Nicholas (Deacon Vince) for their support of our mini-parades in honor of their feast days. I love the way it lends a little bit of wonder and amazement for our little ones as they watch the saints lead the band in parade. The mini-parade concept was conceived by Mrs. Swartzentruber in response to our bands inability to toot their horns, trombones, and saxophones in the local parade circuits. The pandemic, you know.....

Little by little.....

Now, while it is true that we received an invitation from the city of Dover to toot our horns, trombones, and saxophones in the annual St. Patrick's Day parade this past Saturday, it was sad for us all when we had to politely refuse the invitation. Refuse the invitation??? What..refuse?? After the lengthy lull in public parade exhibitions, we said thanks, but no thanks?? Well, yes, we did. You've heard it said, it's tough to be a star? It presents a bit of a conflict when our students find themselves double-booked in commitment to events. But, in point of fact, we had so many band students committed to Odyssey of the Mind on the 19th, and seeing as how bi-location is not a technique we have mastered, we found ourselves in Milford instead of Dover.

Bit by bit....

Yes indeed, it was rise and shine extra early on a Saturday morning, and who did I spy as I walked up the sidewalk to Milford Central? It was none other than our seventh and eighth grade Odyssey of the Mind team, their moms, dads, and grandpas. It was Competition Day and we were so excited to be in-person with our peers from far and wide. Wild and outrageous costumes, props of all sizes and shapes, kindergarten through high school descended upon the town of Milford Delaware in an attempt to wow the judges with their unique approach to problem solving. I think there were too many anxious nerves in the air to be able to gauge any real excitement, but I sure was! It's been so long since we were able to take our show on the road. Whenever we do, we always impress. And so it was on the Feast of St. Joseph, in the town of Milford Delaware we showed them again. Did all go according to plan? No. But that's all part of it. When it doesn't...back it up and punt, and figure it out. I was proud of our middle school team, their impressive scores, and their coach, Mrs. Riecks. Holy Cross sent five teams to MC. At this writing, I am only able to say that three teams have successfully completed competition.

Inch by Inch....

Back in the Fall, Mrs. Knox and her first graders welcomed two new faces in her classroom. They look a little different from their classmates with their beady eyes and furry faces. They don't pay a bit of attention to instruction; as a matter of fact, they sleep through most of the day! Named by the students, Puff and Puff-Ball are two hamsters who have happily taken up residency in the room. But, in the not too distant future, they are going to have to share the limelight with a dozen new friends. Schooch over the hamster condo and make some room for the incubator! For the past several years, thanks to Mrs. Knox, HC has participated in the 4-H Embryology Program through the University of Delaware. This exciting and interactive project gives youth the opportunity to gain hands-on life experience by hatching chicks in the classroom. This school enrichment program includes one week of caring for and raising baby chicks each spring. This rite of Spring in first grade and is a perfect cross-curricular program introduced following the Easter holiday, tying in with lessons on New-Life. This is how the program works. Each participating school receives the incubator, one dozen fertile eggs, a heating lamp, brooder, feeder, waterer, chick food, and bedding. On Monday the chicks are delivered with the much-anticipated hatching day intended for Wednesday. It is beyond a bunch of fun to watch the children engage ever-so gently with their baby chickens. All of the chicks are raised to produce eggs someday, according to the UD website, so as it happens some of our families have given permanent homes to some of the chicks. They come in all sorts of beautiful colors, not just the typical pale yellow. Some red, some blue, some have a hint of grayish silver, white, black...it's such a great hands-on learning experience for the children. But Puff and Puff Ball only have to share their first-grade friends for a short five days. On Friday we bid a sad farewell to our chicks. They will be offered to local 4-H families, many will become an important part of the project work of a 4-H member. The children know they played an important part of the early nurturing of a new life, and that's a valuable lesson all by itself.

In looking forward to the onset of our Spring Soccer Season, (our first competitive sports season in two years), our first live and in-person Spring band and choral concert, the Dover Days parade, the first middle school dance in far too long, and the end of year gatherings and graduations...

.....I feel like that little chick cracking through the confinement of the shell with its tiny beak. Carefully poking its head through, patiently, cautiously working its way out into the freedom of the brave new world.

One step at a time until we're there.

ture after that, too. But St. Joseph is missing completely. However, some of the non-Biblical writings, like Joseph the Carpenter tell us that St. Joseph went, “back to his trade of a carpenter, earned his living by the work of his hands; for, as the law of Moses had commanded, he never sought to live for nothing by another’s labor.”

Mighty Joe Young. That text also tells that Joseph did not “labour under any bodily weakness, nor had his sight failed, nor had any tooth perished from his mouth.” It expressed that he was faithful to Mary, and that “for the whole time of his life, he never wandered.” It also said that even in his advanced-age, St. Joseph “displayed youthful vigor, and his limbs remained unimpaired, and free from all pain.”

How Old? We are then told that at age 111, “It came to pass... the death of ... the pious Joseph.” We are told that as “his departure from this world, was approaching... an angel of the Lord informed him that his death was now close at hand.” Joseph then “rose up and went to Jerusalem” to pray in the Temple. “Thereafter, when he returned to his own house in the city of Nazareth, that he was seized by disease, and had to keep to his bed. And it was at this time that he died, according to the destiny of all mankind. For this disease was very heavy upon him, and he had never been ill, as he now was, from the day of his birth.” At this moment, St. Joseph, with Jesus and Mary beside him, “opened his mouth with many sighs, and spoke after the following manner [with a prayer of repentance].”

Angels and a Happy Death. Jesus then told Mary that, “the death of this pious man, is not death, but life enduring to eternity... Go to Joseph, that ... thou mayst see what will happen as his soul ascends from his body.” And she did. At the moment of St. Joseph’s death, “[The Archangels] Michael and Gabriel came to the soul of... Joseph, and took it, and wrapped it in a shining wrapper. Thus he committed his spirit into the hands of [God the] Father, and He bestowed upon him peace... And the angels preserved his soul from the demons of darkness which were in the way, and praised God even until they conducted it into the dwelling-place of the pious.” And from this last moment, we connect St. Joseph as being the Patron Saint of a Happy Death (after all, he was surrounded by Jesus and Mary — what could be a happier death than that?).

With all of this, let me be clear, the extra texts that I have noted are not part of Sacred Scripture, but are texts that have been used over the centuries (and millennia) building on the beautiful Tradition of the Church. It should be taken for what it is — a flavoring, a texturing of the existing scripture, not an additional scripture, not a replacement scripture. Think about it perhaps as looking at famous piece of art, while reading a commentary on that piece of art by someone who truly appreciates it.

With this two week pause for pondering on the holy persons connected to the great Solemnities of the Annunciation (Mary) on March 25 and St. Joseph on March 19, in the coming weeks I will focus back on the final pivotal weeks of the Season of Lent, as we draw closer to the time of the Passion of the Lord.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

The
Season
of
Lent

