

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 2, 2025

8th Sunday Ordinary Time

holycross

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

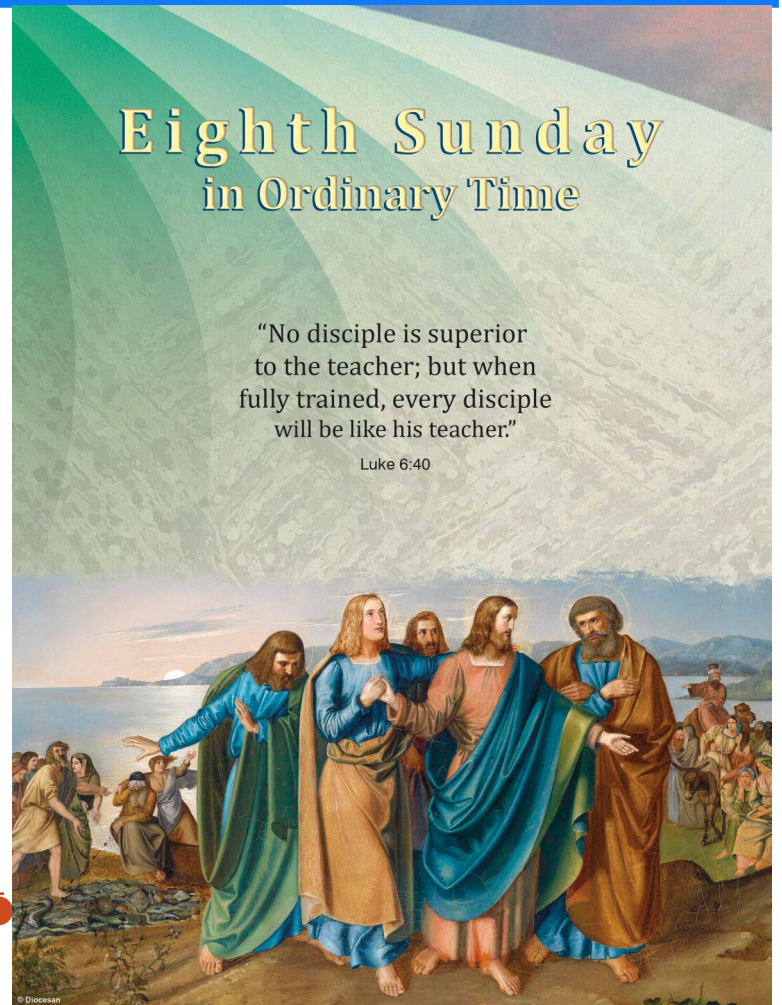
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



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.

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.

Stations of the Cross

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

Extra Reconciliation Time During Lent

During the Fridays in Lent, reconciliation will be available from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Holy Cross. One priest will be available each week during that time to hear confessions.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending February 16, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$25,034	\$26,325	(\$1,291)
YTD	\$889,834	\$897,631	(\$7,797)
Needs	\$1,978	\$1,775	\$203

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending February 16, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,145
Holy Day	\$306

Holy Cross Parishioners:

Tax Statement for the 2024 have been emailed out to any parishioner we had email addresses for. If you did not receive it and want a tax statement, please call the Parish Office to leave your name, email address or physical address. You can also email Sharon Seelig at sseelig@holycrossdover.org

ICC Parishioners please all our ICC office if you wish a tax statement.

Dear Parishioners,

The holy Season of Lent begins this coming Wednesday, March 5 (Ash Wednesday). Not wanting to reinvent the wheel, I am going to use my usual "Introduction to Lent" column. This column, which I have tweaked, added to, and subtracted from over the years, provides a little history, a review of practices, and a general refresher on this violet-colored holy Season.

Tweeting Lent

Most people will be familiar with the social media service Twitter (now called "X"). Twitter/X is to civility what cheesecake is to weight loss. On Twitter, at least originally, you had to summarize your message in 140 characters or less. That 140-characters-or-less message was dubbed a "Tweet." Well, I cannot sum up Lent in 140 characters or less, but I can sum it up in 140 words or less. This description makes for long classified ad but makes for a very abbreviated summation of Lent. Here are those 140 words:

The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word 'Lencten' meaning March (or spring). As a Church term, "Lent" is unique to English, in the romance languages the name for this season finds its origin in the Latin word Quadragesima (the forty days) which refers to the length of the season. Speaking of days, Lent (unlike Christmas) is based upon the lunar calendar. The lunar calendar is used to determine the date of Easter. It was the calendar used by the people in Israel in the time of Christ. Easter is celebrated in the Catholic Church on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of spring. What does this have to do with Lent? Well, when Easter moves, so does the start of the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday) – which is "40 days" before Easter.

While that is short and to the point, there is more to the Lent than what a Twitter-esque text or brief summation will allow one to say. But that's the price that is paid for brevity (I guess you have to take the bitter with the Tweet – ouch!).

Ash Wednesday – Soot up for Lent. Now that we have the background about the name and timing of Lent in place let's look at the first day of Lent: Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Church's season of Lent -- a 40-day season of fasting, repentance, and prayer. On Ash Wednesday, the faithful present themselves to receive ashes. At Masses and Services that day, following the homily, ashes are blessed and then applied to the faithful in the form of a cross on their foreheads.

These ashes are derived from burning the blessed palm branches used on Palm Sunday during the previous year. That Cross of ashes on the foreheads of the faithful serves as a reminder of their commitment to the way of Christ and the road to repentance. Those ashes in the shape of Christ's salvific cross are like — dare I say — a "soot of armor"... protecting us by reminding us to Whom we belong.

Mass Appeal. It should be noted that while Ash Wednesday is not a solemnity (high holy day) or a Holy Day of Obligation (mandatory Mass attendance day), nonetheless, in recent years, more people tend to go to Church on Ash Wednesday than any other day of the year, except for Christmas and Easter. Why is this? Even a somewhat lapsed Catholic has — in his hard wiring — the need to repent and the desire to set his life right with God and His holy Church. Ash Wednesday presents that opportunity, like the opening ceremony of the redemption Olympics.

Cinderella and Pope Gregory. I should also mention a little history about the name and origins of Ash Wednesday: The name Ash Wednesday finds its roots in the Latin term "Dies Cinerum" (found in the Latin text of the Roman Missal used at Mass) – that term means, literally, "Day of Ashes" or "Day of Cinders." Cinders is a synonym for ashes; thus, poor Cinderella of fairy tale fame was a girl who cleaned ashes. She was named for her cinder-cleaning activity (plus, Cinderella, as a name, sounds much nicer than Asherella). In any event, it is asserted that Pope Gregory the Great began this practice of receiving Ashes some 15 centuries ago in the sixth century, perhaps making him the first Cinder-fella.

Ashes to Ashes — in the Old Testament. "Okay," you may ask, "the last few paragraphs answer some basic questions about the origin of the name Ash Wednesday and the fact that people receive Ashes that day. But the bigger question is, why do they do this?" We must step into the Wayback Machine and travel back to the Old Testament era for that answer. In Old Testament times, wearing ashes – which were the dirt-based remains that were left behind after something was burned or offered up – had two key symbolisms. When worn on a person's face, ashes were, firstly, a sign of man's humility and mortality and, secondly, a sign of one's repentance for his sins.

Ashes to Ashes — in our Faith. Thus, when a person receives ashes on Ash Wednesday, those ashes are administered in a visible place (the forehead)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. John Enemuor	Parochial Vicar
Rev. John Hynes	In Residence

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
Sharon Seelig	Records Office, ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. I18
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

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

1ST SUNDAY LENT (MAR 9)

FIRST READING: DEUTERONOMY 26:4-10
Moses gives the chosen people their first creed.
SECOND READING: ROMANS 10:8-13
St. Paul gives the Christians their first creed.
GOSPEL: LUKE 4:1-13
The Spirit leads Jesus through the wilderness where he is tempted by the devil.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5. The schedule of Masses or services are as follows:

At Holy Cross:

8:15 am Mass
9:30 am school service for school children
12:10 pm Mass
5:30 pm Service for CCD families/parishioners
7:00 pm Mass

At Immaculate Conception:

5:30 pm Mass
7:00 pm Hispanic Mass

FISH FRYS AT HC

Fish Frys will take place each Friday during Lent in the Parish Hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Dinners will be served in the Parish Hall from 4 pm to 6:30 pm.

Menu includes: Baked Flounder, Breaded Cod, Fish Sticks, Macaroni & Cheese, Vegetable, Cole Slaw, Coffee, Tea, Deserts EAT-IN OR TAKE-OUT Per Person/Per Plate - \$15.00
Family (Parent(s) & Child(ren) - \$40.00
Proceeds Benefit K of C Programs
Visa & Mastercard Accepted

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry is in need of the following items:
Cereal, oatmeal, one pound bags of white rice, peanut butter and jelly, brownie mix, hamburger helper, Manwich, and Progresso or Campbell's chunky soups. Any donations you can make can be left in the Samaritan drop off near the Rectory or in the boxes as you enter the church. Thank you for your kind consideration .

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

St Paddy's Dinner, Hosted by Knights of Columbus Dover Council #4182. Benefit the Columbian Home. 6:00pm Saturday March 15th at the Columbian Home Hall, Camden DE. Menu: Corned Beef, Potatoes, Cabbage, Shepard's Pie & Dessert. Beer and Wine Included. \$30.00 each. Come Join us. Contact Knight Don Ryan at 302-233-5251.if interested.

PURSE BINGO:

Please join us Saturday, March 22 for a fun evening of bingo. Tickets are \$40 each - tables of 8 - and may be purchased from ldarling@holycrossdover.org or in the Parish Office or contacting Linda Darling at extension 123. Basket raffles and 50/50 tickets, as well as beer and wine, will be available for purchase. Proceeds help our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp in Richmond, VA this June. **Don't wait - Tickets are going quickly - please see Linda Darling to get your tickets.**



MARTHA AND MARY MINISTRY

Thanks to those who have volunteered to help with our Marth and Mary Ministry. This ministry helps with our funerals, either by being a greeter at the Mass, making desserts for funeral receptions, or helping at the reception by setting up, serving, and cleaning up. A volunteer can sign up to do any or all of the above mentioned services. If interested, please contact Lori Christiansen at shera29@verizon.net or call the Parish Office to leave your name and number and we can pass it on to Lori.

HOUSE BILL 140

We need your help to protect Delaware's vulnerable citizens! House Bill 140, that legalizes physician-assisted suicide, was voted out of committee and is on the "ready list" to go before the full Delaware House of Representatives. For years, the Catholic community has joined advocates for the disabled and others to oppose this bill that not only is against Catholic teachings regarding the sanctity of life from conception to natural death, but also puts the lives of our most vulnerable citizens at risk. It's time to stand up and make our voices heard!

What is at Stake? HB 140 is government-sanctioned suicide. It can lead to a slippery slope, with vulnerable individuals — such as the elderly, disabled, or those experiencing depression — being pressured into choosing death over life. For more information, and to send a customizable email to your Representative in Dover, visit cdow.org/stopassistedsuicide.

LIFE NOTES" CORNER

(Taken from the booklet FACT-CHECK by Terry Beatley) A continuation of the 8-point strategy of Dr Bernard Nathanson influenced America and the Church to support and go

MASS INTENTION MARCH

3 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Elia Maceren
4 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Louis V. Jara
5 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Frank L. Tenusak
HC 12:10 pm	Skocik and Shaffner Fam. (LI)
ICC 5:30 pm	For the People
HC 7:00 pm	Rose Gabing
ICC 7:00 pm	For the People
6 THURSDAY	
HC 8:0 am	David Daniel Lausten
IC 6:00 pm	For the People
7 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Bill Denny
8 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Robert Williamson
HC 5:00 pm	George Cecala
9 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Lambert Rund
ICC 8:30 am	Ed and Delores McGowan
HC 9:30 am	Beverly Peetf
ICC 11:00 am	Irene Calvarese
HC 11:30 am	For the People
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People
<i>Feb. 16-22 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of Holy Cross Parishioners</i>	
<i>Feb 16-22 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of Holy Cross Parishioners.</i>	

along with abortion.

Point #4 Fabricate Facts, AKA Tell

Lies (misinformation in today's language)

"Later, Dr. Nathanson admitted to fabricating all the statistical data.

He reported that 1 MILLION women had illegal abortions each year, and 5,000 to 10,000 women died every year due to so-called "back alley" abortions. Dr. Nathanson made it sound like illegal abortion was an epidemic and a national crisis in women's healthcare. But those numbers were outrageous lies. (No one fact-checked them.)

What were the real numbers? According to Dr Nathanson about 98,000 illegal abortions happened each year. Abortion related deaths "actual number in the twenty-five-year period prior to Roe-Doe averaged 250." (The Abortion Papers, pg. 41) The year before Roe v Wade, 65 women died due to complications of abortion. (CDC Abortion Surveillance 2006) Americans have been deceived for decades.

MARCH 8/9, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. Darling
L. Darling

B. Richards
G. Richards

N. Klaus
Z. Klaus

LECTORS

M. Phillips

7:30 AM

J. Denney
A. Fischer

J. Fischer
S. Lascano

B. Gyamfi
E. Gyamfi

LECTORS

A. Wyllie

9:30 AM

D. Banach
S. Cordie

E. Martinez
F. Hanlin

J. Beugre
C. Beugre

LECTORS

S. Ford
C. Parks

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez
E. Pastoriza

M. Richard

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

B. Casey

LECTORS

D. Smith

11:00 AM

J. Carrow

LECTORS

L. Schlaupitz

If you would like to be a part of our ministry team as an altar server, lector, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, please contact the parish office. We would love to have more volunteers.

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RACHEL'S VINEYARD

Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat will be held the weekend of May 2-4, 2025. This retreat offers emotional and spiritual healing for anyone who has struggled with grief and loss from abortion. Whether you are post-abortive or know someone who is, freedom awaits. Contact Nan Bernardo-Freeman at 302-463-7711 (call or text) or lucyminn929@gmail.com by April 18.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Testimonial for Adoration and the Blessed Sacrament:

"I retired a year ago and began praying hard for change and a renewed purpose for my life. Being somewhat troubled, another Holy Cross parishioner, seeing me in Mass, asked if I would like to participate in an hour each week with the Blessed Sacrament. He gave me a small paperback book called 33 Days of Consecration to the Eucharist. The experience has literally changed my life. Instead of one hour a week, I find myself yearning to go every day and spend time talking with the Counselor of my heart. Every day He has opened my eyes to a different understanding of myself and my relationship with Him. It's a personal fulfillment and change that has put me on a deeply peaceful path. All I've had to do is open my heart and listen to Him give me guidance. I know I'm finding the new purpose for my life and the path I'm on is already filled with joy and peace."

All hours are open. Stop by the Adoration Chapel sign up table before or after Mass today in the Gathering Space. All current Adorers, please stop by to verify your day and time.

SPRING VOLLEYBALL SEASON

It's time to prepare for our upcoming coed Volleyball season. We will hold evaluations on Saturday, March 15. Schedule is as follows for tryouts:

- 1st-3rd grade 9:00 am
- 4th-5th grade 9:45am
- 6th-8th grade 10:30 am
- Highschool 11:15am.



Cost is \$80 first child., and \$50 for any additional child in the same family. Season runs through the beginning of June. Registration is needed for all players. Forms can be picked up at the Parish Office and School Offices and will be available in the Gymnasium as well.

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL

The new independent Holy Cross High School will be opening in Dover this Fall! Applications are now being accepted for both Freshman and Sophomore classes. There will be an information session for prospective families on Thursday, March 13, at 6:30 PM at St. John the Apostle.

- **Nominaciones:** Se les pide que oren, vean y recomiendan personas para servir en la nueva Junta Directiva 2025 – 2027. Necesitamos personas que se comprometan y que tengan la voluntad de trabajar y de servir, que sean líderes activos inscritos en la parroquia y sepan acatar los reglamentos de la iglesia. Se les pide que recomienden a personas que ustedes creen que pueden trabajar juntamente con el párroco y con el personal parroquial. Las elecciones para los puestos se seleccionarán el viernes, 2 de mayo, 2025, en el ELC donde se contarán los votos. Seleccione a la persona que usted piensa que puede servir a nuestra Comunidad Hispana..Puede nominarse o nominar a alguien más. Yo recomiendo a _____ para servir en la Junta directiva.
- **Agradecimiento:** Nuestro agradecimiento a nuestra Junta Directiva actual que ha trabajado arduamente para servir a Dios a la iglesia y a nuestra comunidad su término como Junta Directiva ya pronto llegara a su fin y se acerca el tiempo para elegir otra Junta.
- **Peregrinación con el Señor Obispo:** Se les invita a todos los jóvenes que desean tomar parte en la peregrinación y la Vía Crucis que se llevará a cabo el sábado 12 de abril en Wilmington. Hay que inscribirse en línea o hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman. El costo es de \$15 por persona y \$45 por familia no incluye transporte. Hay un número limitado de becas disponibles. Si usted y su familia desean participar complete el formulario en línea y envíelo a más tardar el 28 de marzo de 2025. Se espera reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias mientras caminamos por las calles de la ciudad de Wilmington con el obispo Koenig, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia. Estará nuevamente el "The Scally Brothers" para animar el evento durante el día.
- La peregrinación comienza en St. Elizabeth va al Hospital St. Francis para una bendición especial de los pacientes, luego la Reconciliación en St. Anthony de Padua, seguida del Vía Crucis en la Academia de Padua, donde nuestros jóvenes participaran. Seguimos a la Adoración del Santísimo Sacramento en San Pablo y, finalmente, la Bendición de las Palmas y la Misa en St. Elizabeth.
- Necesitamos jóvenes para participar en la dramatización de la Vía Crucis, los ensayos serán todos los miércoles y comenzarán el 26 de febrero a las 7:00PM ICC, Marydel en el salón.
- **Foro Cristiano:** Foro Cristiano "Santos y Camino a la Santidad" todos los viernes, de 6-8 de la noche, en el ELC. Salón Mateo/Marcos. Quedan todos cordialmente invitados.
- **Voluntarios:** 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
- **Peregrinos de Esperanza:** "El Año del Jubileo 2025 y el tema escogido por el Santo Padre es "Peregrinos de Esperanza, ¿la esperanza del perdón para con el prójimo y con toda la creación. ¿Cómo ganar la indulgencia plenaria? Según las normas publicadas por la Penitenciaría Apostólica, pueden recibir la indulgencia, con la remisión y perdón de los pecados, ir al Sacramento de la reconciliación, "movidos por el espíritu de caridad", alimentados por la Santa Comunión, y oren por las intenciones" del Papa. Los fieles pueden obtener la indulgencia jubilar realizando una peregrinación a cualquier lugar sagrado jubilar designado por la diócesis son las siguientes: Misa, Celebración de la Palabra de Dios. Liturgia de las Horas (oficio de lecturas, laudes, vísperas) Nuestro Señor Obispo William Koenig a declarado los siguientes sitios: Nuestra Capilla de Adoración, Holy Cross, Dover, St. Ann Wilmington, La Catedral de St.Peter, Wilmington, IHM, Wilmington, St. Jude, Lewes, St. Francis de Sales en Salisbury, MD. Somos Iglesia, Somos parroquia, somos comunidad, somos familia en camino al jubileo. Como comunidad oremos y seamos peregrinos de esperanza uno para el otro.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

Sacramentos:

- **Primera Comunión:** : El sacramento de la Primera Comunión Sesión #4 será el martes, 25 de marzo a las 6:30 en el salón parroquial, para los que se están preparando para recibir a Jesús.
- **Confirmación:** Sesión # 5 domingo 23 demarzo de 3-5:30 en el salón parroquial.
- **La Peregrinación Diocesana,** Será el sábado, 12 de abril en Wilmington 9:30-5:15 PM. Necesitamos jóvenes para participar en la dramatización de la Vía Crucis, los ensayos comenzaran el 26 de febrero a las 7:00PM en el salón.
- Necesitamos jóvenes para participar en la dramatización de la Via Crucis, los ensayos serán todos los miércoles y comenzarán el 26 de febrero a las 7:00PM ICC, Marydel en el salón.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Next class March 16

Looking ahead: Ash Wednesday Service for Religious Education Families March 5th at 5:30pm

Please arrive between 2:45-2:55 to be on time and not disrupt classes. Bring textbook, snack and a pencil. Kindergarteners bring bookbag, crayons, safety scissors, glue sticks and textbook.

Grades K-7 in the Elementary Building, drop off at double doors near school office. Pick up, parents walk through those same doors, pick up child(ren) and exit doors past bathroom. Second Floor students will be sent down to siblings on the first floor for easier pick up.

Grade 8 in the Matthew/Mark room in the Parish Office Building C, second floor, students with siblings at the elementary building will be walked over to elementary building for pick up.

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith)

Next class is March 9. Is your family interested in either starting or continuing their life-long faith journey together? Would you as parents like to be active participants in the faith formation of your children? Deacon Vince Pisano has the perfect Religious Education program for you and your family! This program engages the family, whether it be parents with K-8 children, or a family who wants to enter the Catholic church and receive the sacraments of initiation together hand in hand. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences.

New Class: Beginning 3/11/25 at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C

During Lent we will be sharing "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk-Through Christ's Passion" "Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. "

In this session we will learn what Jesus was going through at each moment, why he died for us and what it accomplished and what do the cryptic last words of Jesus meant.

This is a free class! All are welcome! No materials will be provided, however there is a workbook available for purchase for \$25. If interested

in workbook please

email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org to be added to the order. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Class: Class today March 2 and then again on March 23.

Kerygma Class: Due to weather cancellations, we will have two Kerygma classes in March—March 12 and March 19. These will be our final two classes.

Parent Meeting: Our final parent meeting for candidates will take place on Sunday, March 2 at 5:15 pm in the Matthew Mark room or Monday, March 3 at 7 pm in the Matthew Mark room.

Please have your child's March/April schedule with you to sign up for their interview—March 31 to April 3.

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

The Church has entered into liturgical year C where we will continue to hear from St. Luke for the rest of the year! God wants to meet you in the Mass through the readings. He wants to speak to your heart. When you know the context and significance of the Gospel readings before getting to Mass, you are ready to listen to what Jesus is telling you. With Luke in 50 Days, you can press play and listen to Fr. Mike Schmitz read you a section of the Gospel of Luke. Jeff Cavins and Scott Powell will be there to discuss the parables, the teachings of Jesus, and show you the connection between the Gospel and the Old Testament. Use this link to start your journey now!

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/luke-in-50-days-announcementII>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

Confirmation Preparation: Session #6, Sunday, March 23rd at 3pm-5:30 in the hall..

First Communion Preparation: Session #4: Tuesday, March 11th @ 6:30-7:30 in Hall

Diocesan Pilgrimage: Saturday, April 12th 9:30am-5:15pm Registration for ICC youth and families can be obtained from Alicia Poppiti. 410-482-8939 for more information.. I have a bus reserved, and you must register and pay for that additionally through Ms. Alicia .

This past week at Holy Cross has been filled with faith, learning, and community.

On Tuesday, our students from Pre-K through 8th grade completed their Black History Month projects. With the assistance of our National Junior Honor Society members, we transformed the Parish Hall into an educational exhibit, allowing students to participate in a gallery walk on Wednesday or Thursday. Each class selected a significant historical figure and showcased their contributions through carefully crafted poster presentations. These displays encircled the Parish Hall, inviting students to explore and reflect on the achievements of these inspiring individuals. Some classes even conducted lessons and discussions within the exhibit, using their peers' work as a springboard for deeper understanding.

On Thursday, we had the honor of welcoming Bishop Koenig to Holy Cross for Mass. This beautiful celebration of the Eucharist was led by our dedicated Student Council members and choir. Our Student Council representatives proclaimed the readings with reverence, welcomed the congregation, and served as ushers, setting a wonderful example of leadership and faith for our younger students. Under the direction of Ms. S, our choir lifted their voices in song. At the conclusion of Mass, Bishop Koenig took a moment to greet our students as they returned to their classrooms. We are grateful to have shared this special time with him, Father Lentini, and Deacon Vince.

On Friday, our third-grade students transformed the Parish Hall into a living wax museum, bringing the lives of the Saints to life. Each student dressed as a saint, sharing their knowledge and deepening their connection to the Church's rich history of holiness. This hands-on project was a testament to their dedication and enthusiasm, and it was a blessing to see our students not only learning about these holy men and women but also sharing that knowledge with their peers. Moments like these remind us of the beauty of our Catholic faith and the importance of striving for holiness in our own lives.

This week also marks the conclusion of our second trimester, ushering us into the final stretch of our academic year. The transition between trimesters is an opportunity for reflection—both for our students and teachers. It is a time to assess progress, set goals, and renew our commitment to growth in both academics and faith. While the second trimester seemed to pass in the blink of an eye, we look forward to embracing the third trimester with dedication, perseverance, and trust in God's guidance.

May we continue to support one another as we journey together through this school year, seeking wisdom, holiness, and excellence in all that we do. Thank you for your continued prayers and partnership in the mission of Holy Cross School.

Blessings,

Mrs. O'Mara

and commonly in the form of a cross. As the ashes are imposed, the Priest (or Deacon or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion) commonly says the words, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” This admonition reminds us of our mortality, our need for humility, and the truth that one day, we will each have to stand before God to answer for our lives. Thus, it is time to repent, or as the old song says, time to “straighten up and fly right.”

Who is Walter B. Pitkin? So, Ash Wednesday rightly and propitiously begins our 40-day season of repentance. At the end of those 40 days of penitence and repentance, the glory of Easter and Resurrection beckon. In 1932, a man named Walter B. Pitkin wrote a book that became a seminal writing in the American understanding of life; the book was called “Life Begins at 40.” The book reminds folks that the best things are worth waiting for. And so, for us, as Catholics, a season of penitence begins on Ash Wednesday, and “New Life Begins at 40 (Days)” — and that’s definitely worth waiting for!

Big Macs, Beware! This 40-day season of Lent also begins a time for fasting and sacrifice. To remind us of this, Ash Wednesday is designated as a day of fasting and abstinence from meat. This means the faithful are generally prescribed to fast (only one full meal, two much smaller meals) and abstain (no consumption of meat) on Ash Wednesday. Fasting and abstinence also apply on Good Friday. Abstinence from meat (without fasting) also applies to every Friday in Lent.

The Fast and the... Fasting is put in place to get our minds away from food and earthly desires so that we may focus our minds on Christ and his salvific act and, in turn, focus the eyes of our faithfulness on God and his Church. Or maybe, in simpler terms, it is a season wherein we are called to reflect on the great sacrifice of what Christ did for us and then ask ourselves if we are living lives that honor that great sacrifice. This is precisely what Lent calls us to do in our spirit of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

Meat-ing Cancelled. Why do we abstain from eating meat on Fridays? Why meat? Why not abstain from broccoli (that would have been my vote)? One way of reflecting on this sacrifice is to think of it in this context: The animals that we commonly get meat from are traditionally the animals that were offered in Sacrifice by the Priests in ancient Judaism in the Temple. With Christ’s sacrifice, animal sacrifices were no longer necessary. Abstaining from meat is one way, within Church discipline, that we can share in and recognize Christ’s perfect sacrifice that did away with sacrifices required under the Old Covenant. There are other historical reasons that speak to the development of Catholicism’s “meatless Fridays,” — but the devotional understanding above is probably a good way to understand the significance of these days of abstinence, these Fridays of Lent. Further, the Church teaches that fasting and abstinence “prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart” (CCC 2043), allowing us to focus on our relationship with the God who gave us life.

Of Radishes, Rutabagas and Rules. We are also commended to make sacrifices during Lent — to give up something during the 40 days of Lent that would be a sacrifice for us (thus, for me, giving up broccoli, radishes or rutabagas would not really be acceptable — as those would not be sacrifices at all). Our Lenten sacrifice further unites us with Christ’s sacrifice and draws us closer to God.

The Color Purple Violet. Violet (or “purple,” as we say in our everyday vernacular) is a symbol of penance and humility. Violet is the color used during the Seasons of Lent and the Season of Advent — both seasons associated with a penitential tone, one awaiting the birth of the Savior, the other pointing towards His passion, death and resurrection. Violet, as used by the Church for Lent (as well as for Advent), is amaranth red (i.e., reddish-purple). Contrary to a commonly held ecclesial urban legend, the Church does not demarcate a different shade of violet for Advent as opposed to Lent; thus, to put it poetically, “Roses are red, and Violet is amaranth red.”

The violet-tinged Season of Lent is a time of returning to God and repenting our sins. It is a time when we are to renew our listening to and living the teachings of our faith and hearing and heeding God’s voice. During this season, live your faith more fully through prayer, repentance, and fasting. If you live your faith in this manner, Lent will be a time well spent that brings you closer to God and his one holy Church.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor