

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 3, 2024

Third Sunday of Lent

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

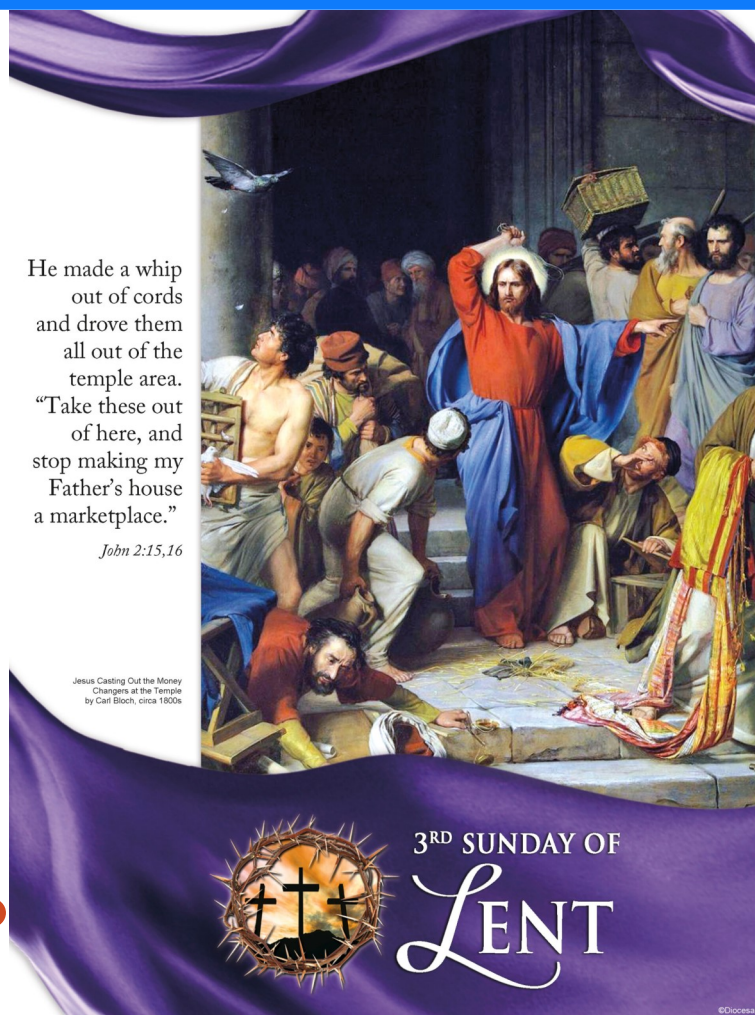
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

John 2:15,16

Jesus Casting Out the Money Changers at the Temple by Carl Bloch, circa 1800s



3RD SUNDAY OF
LENT

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.



Please take this Lenten Season as time to go to confession.

Please take note of the Pastor's column for the many opportunities available over the next few weeks for Reconciliation.



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending February 18, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$26,795	\$26,180	\$615
YTD	\$916,119	\$921,200	(\$5,081)
Needs	\$2,118	\$1,712	\$406

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending February 18, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,842
Second Collection	\$410

Thank you to all advertisers in our bulletin.

We appreciate your support!

If you know of someone who would like to advertise in the bulletin, please contact Diocesan Publications at 800-233-8200.

Dear Parishioners,

As we proceed through this Holy Season of Lent, we are called to turn back to God. This “turning back to God” is most clearly seen and most pronounced by those making access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

Motive, Means and Opportunity. During the tail-end of Lent, and leading into Holy Week, Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parish will afford the faithful many opportunities to make their way to confession. A concentration of these days will take place just before and at the onset of Holy Week, a most appropriate time for any Catholic to make a good confession. It is hoped that this special schedule (noted later in this column) will give Catholics needing to confess their sins (motive), access to the Sacrament of Penance (means) on an extended schedule (opportunity).

Filling it up, Regular. As part of our established schedule for confessions, Holy Cross offers weekly confessions (two priests) every Saturday morning from 8:30-10:00am. Immaculate Conception Parish has confessions on the first Thursday of the month, after 6:00pm Mass, and concurrent with its Holy Hour. In Lent, Holy Cross adds additional confession time each Friday night, when there will be a priest available for confessions from 5:30-6:30pm. Our faithful fill up our confessionals in large numbers during these regular confession times.

Filling it up, Ultra. To supplement that, Fr. Ferris and I have established a very intensive schedule of confessions beginning on the Thursday before Holy Week and continuing to the Monday of Holy Week. More on that below. We expect ultra-large crowds to fill up our confessionals at the times of additional sacramental opportunities.

The Regular Schedule. Before getting to the special schedule, let me start by the delineating of regular confession opportunities in the weeks ahead, along with the regular Lenten additions, and then I will lay out the special additional opportunities. The following are the regularly scheduled and Lenten-usual confession times at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception.

- **On Saturday mornings, March 2, 9, 16, at Holy Cross** there will be confessions from 8:30-10:00 am (two priests)
- **On First Thursday, March 7, at Immaculate Conception** there will be confessions, in English and Spanish, starting after the conclusion of the 6:00pm Mass and continuing through Holy Hour.
- **On Fridays of Lent, March 1, 8, 15, at Holy Cross** there will be confessions from 5:30-6:30 pm

The Special Schedule. Beginning the Thursday before Holy Week a heavy confession schedule will be in place to serve the many people who may want to go to confession before the onset of or early into Holy Week. I have humorously dubbed this period as our “Confession-palooza” at Holy Cross and Immaculate

Conception. Here is how it all rolls out:

- **Thursday, March 21, 2024 - Deanery Penance Service at Holy Cross, 7:00-9:00 pm.** The Deanery Penance Service is an evening of confessions that is opened and advertised to the Catholic faith in Milford/Harrington (St. John the Apostle Parish), Dover (Holy Cross Parish), Marydel (Immaculate Conception Parish), Smyrna (St. Polycarp Parish), and Galena (St. Dennis Parish). It is our hope to have 5-6 priests simultaneously hearing confessions that evening. We do ask that those wishing to go to confession not show up at 8:59 pm, so as to allow us (even if we have to go into to a post 9 pm overtime) not to overrun the time by too much, as many of the visiting priests have to journey back home.
- **Friday, March 22, 2024 - Reconciliation Friday at Immaculate Conception, 3:00-8:00 pm.** Our Diocese has a designated Reconciliation Monday (during Holy Week), but as we at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception have a double-parish set up, we sometimes must think outside the box as to how to accommodate things. With that in mind, we have set up Reconciliation Friday at Immaculate Conception in Marydel. There will be at least one priest hearing confessions from 3:00-8:00 pm; confessions will be in English and Spanish. The tail-end of this confession time will overlap with the parish’s Stations of the Cross.
- **Friday, March 22, 2024 - Friday Night Lenten Confessions at Holy Cross, 5:30-6:30 pm.** While we have a priest at ICC at Reconciliation Friday, we will have a priest at Holy Cross for the regular Friday night confessions as we do during the Lenten season.
- **Saturday, March 23, 2024 - Saturday Morning Confessions at Holy Cross, 8:30-10:30am.** On this Saturday leading into Holy Week, Holy Cross’s Saturday morning confessions will be extended by a half-an-hour (to two hours, total). We are also expecting to be able to expand the number of priests hearing confessions from two to three. Confessions begin right after the end of the 8:00 am Saturday morning Mass.
- **Monday, March 25, 2024 - Reconciliation Monday at Holy Cross, 3:00-8:00pm** Bishop Koenig instituted Reconciliation Monday a few years ago as a way to extend the opportunities for confession, especially at the onset of Holy Week, at parishes across the Diocese. For those who remember last year, Holy Cross had a flood of folks show up for confession — and myself and Msgr. Dan, of happy memory, heard confessions continuously until almost 9:15 pm. We will have two priests (myself and

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.
Rev. Brennan Ferris
Rev. John Hynes

Pastor
Parochial Vicar
In Residence

HC CLERGY

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

Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon
Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell

Deacon

HC STAFF

Parish Office 302 674 5787
Jane Green Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

Church of the Holy Cross
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

ICC STAFF

Parish Office 410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia Bookkeeper
Arline Dosman Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

MAILING ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception Church
P. O. Box 399
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

FISH FRYS AT HC

Fish Frys will take place each Friday during Lent in the Parish Hall hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Dinners will be served in the Parish Hall from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. The menu will be breaded cod, baked flounder, fish sticks, mac & cheese, vegetable, cole slaw, coffee, tea, and dessert. Cost is \$15 a plate/ family \$40.00. Eat in or take out available.



RECONCILIATION TIME DURING LENT

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

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

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

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newest registered member:

- Cyril, Bibiana and Bryson Anumbodem

RECENT DEATHS

Our condolences to the families of:

- Norma Jean Pizzadili
- Gloria Abbrescia
- Michael Raymond Dunlop

May they rest in peace. Amen.

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT (MARCH 10)

FIRST READING: 2 CHRONICLES 36:14-16, 19-23

God's persistent love and mercy in the face of rejection are revealed.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 2:4-10

Through grace, not by our own efforts, we have been saved, so that we may live the good life God has always meant us to live.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:14-21

Christ is the light of the world, come not to condemn but to save, and those who live by the truth come into that light.

GIVING UP CLUTTER FOR LENT

The Holy Cross Home School Associate welcomes the parish community to partake in a physical decluttering during this season of Lent. The school is hosting a textile drive from February 26—March 21

Donations can be dropped off to the Elementary Office ONLY. DO NOT LEAVE ITEMS IN THE GATHERING SPACE. Place items in plastic trash bags.

Items accepted: clothes, outerwear, swimsuits, belts, shoes purses, ties scarves, gloves that, linens drapery, plush toys, backpacks, briefcases.

Items NOT accepted: housewares, small appliances, toys, electronics, rugs, workout gear, baby ear, car seats, cribs, walkers.

COLUMBIETTES

Dover Columbiettes invite all ladies to spend time with Sr. Roni Daniels as she talks about her time with Saint Teresa of Calcutta. Please join us at the Columbian Home, 219 Vepco Blvd. Camden, DE beginning at 6 pm, March 20. We will enjoy refreshments following. We will be done no later than 7:15 pm as our Columbiette meeting begins at that time.

MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

Our Mom and Baby Group is intended for mothers with babies ages 0-2 years of age. Siblings are welcome to join! This group is for our mothers to connect with each other and our babies to enjoy themselves. We would love if you join us for prayer, discussion, and play time! If you have any small toys you would like to donate to the group, please contact Megan MacCormac. 302 535 9913 or email megs.farl@gmail.com. Our first meeting date will be Saturday, March 23, at 10 am in the Early Learning Center building, second floor.

HOLY CROSS RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Holy Cross Respect Life group is in need of volunteers, will you join us? It involves creating ways to promote a pro-life, pro-love message to the community around events and special days.

If you are creative and have a heart of love, please call me. Let's chat! Donna 862-266-1099 or email me dlatter86@gmail.com

"Cabrini" the new movie about Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, the first woman in America to be canonized, will be coming to Dover AMC 14 this March. A group will be attending Sunday March 10 at 1:00 showing.

MASS INTENTIONS MARCH

4 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Louis V. Jara
5 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Teresa Crenshaw
6 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	Bill Denny
7 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Ann & Augustus Furjanic
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
8 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Galen Purcell
9 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Maria Antonetta Madallena
HC 5:00 pm	LI Kaltenbaugh Family
10 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	James B. Lynch
ICC 8:30 am	Valerie Adam
HC 9:30 am	DM McGlynn Family
ICC 11:00 am	Vittorio Cristiano
HC 11:30 am	LI Rachael & Robert Neely
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

(See trailers on YouTube.) Join us! Ticket pre-orders are 50% off! \$4 a ticket via Angel Studios, see link on YouTube. Pay it forward or pay for someone else. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=02S9IcBPefw>.

DE Right to Life Rally - March 27th Dover

Will you join us at the Delaware March for Life to Legislative Hall this year? We march for the legal protection of pre-born children.

Are you aware that abortion is "legal" in Delaware throughout all 9 months?

As Catholics, it is our duty to protect life at all stages, through both prayer and action. See <https://delawarefamilies.org/deforlife/> for more resources and get involved.

MARCH 9/10, 2024

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

C. Bugglin
M. Casey

J. Clendaniel
F. Ernst

J. Cutrona
S. Murawski

LECTORS

J. Davis
D. Kilby

7:30 AM

A. Fischer
J. Fischer

R. O'Neill
A. Wyllie

A. Costa
E. Costa
M. Costa

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM

M. Sossich
G. Wessel

M. Wessel
R. Willey

J. Beugre
C. Beugre

LECTORS

R. Alderman
T. Baurys

11:30 AM

C. Garcia
A. Luna

B. Guzman

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

TBF

11:00 AM

LECTORS

D. King

1:00 PM

TBD

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. Please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings. Call John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at jkm2015@verizon.net to schedule.



SUNDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
MONDAY	5 pm
WEDNESDAY	5 pm
THURSDAY	4 pm
FRIDAY	6 am
SATURDAY	5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm

This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival. Please consider taking some time each week out of your busy schedule to sit in silence and prayer before Our Lord. Call today to reserve your hour. You will be so blessed and glad you did.

CEMETERY POST-CHRISTMAS CLEAN UP

All winter and Christmas decorations will be removed on Monday, March 4th. If you wish to reclaim your decorations for reuse please do so before then. Your assistance in disposing of decorations at home will help reduce our clean up time and costs. As always, thank you for your understanding and cooperation in maintaining our sacred grounds.

PURSE BINGO

Mark your calendars! Our annual purse bingo to raise money to assist our teens attending Catholic Heart Work Camp this summer will take place on Saturday, **March 9**. Please contact Linda Darling in the parish office for tickets. Cost is \$35 per ticket—tables of 8. Tickets are going quickly so get yours today! You can reach Linda by email at: ldarling@holycrossdover.org.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS 2024—PICTURES

Thank you to all who attended the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass with Bishop Koenig at St. Margaret of Scotland Church. The pictures have been placed on the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington website under the Office for Marriage and Family Life. Please visit <https://www.cdow.org/religious-education/office-for-marriage-and-family-life/> and click on the red link to access the pictures. Any questions can be directed to the Office for Marriage and Family Life – 302-295-0657.

- **Cuaresma: Tiempo de Conversión,** El lema de este año «A través del desierto Dios nos guía a la libertad». El papa Francisco plantea un “paralelismo entre el pueblo de Israel en el desierto y el pueblo de Dios en la actualidad, que también lleva dentro de sí “ataduras opresoras que debe decidirse a abandonar”. “Nos damos cuenta de ello cuando nos falta esperanza y vagamos por la vida como en un páramo desolado, sin una tierra prometida hacia la cual encaminarnos juntos”, plantea. En este sentido, recuerda además que “la Cuaresma es el tiempo de gracia en el que el desierto vuelve a ser, como anuncia el profeta Oseas, el lugar del primer amor” (cf. Os 2,16-17). A detenernos ante la presencia de Dios, en la carne del prójimo. Por eso la oración, la limosna y el ayuno no son tres ejercicios independientes, sino un único movimiento”. El Papa “Invita a todos los cristianos a reflexionar sobre los estilos de vida” para evaluar y mejorar su contribución en la sociedad.
- **El Foro Cristiano Todos** los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche. El tema es: El Misterio Eucarístico” Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024.
- **Peregrinación Diocesana:** Nuevamente la diócesis nos ha pedido que participemos en la Vía Crucis como parte de uno de los eventos de la peregrinación con nuestro obispo Koenig, el sábado, 23 de marzo, 2024 en Wilmington. Los Jóvenes y adolescentes que desean participar por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Tendremos los ensayos todos los miércoles a de 7-8:30PM en el salón de nuestra parroquia hermana de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel . Este mismo elenco también presentará la Vía Crucis en Holy Cross el viernes santo a las 9:00 de la noche en la iglesia.

ICC

Clases de Preparación Sacramental:

- **Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación Sesión #6** el domingo 10, de marzo 3:00 – 5:30PM en el salón. Esta será la ultima, todas las tareas deben ser entregadas hoy. Sin excepciones.
- **Entrevistas seran el 18, 19 y 20 de marzo en ICC**
- **Clase de Preparación para La Primera Comunión:** Cuarta Sesión el martes, 5 de marzo a las 6:30pm en el salón.

CYM Peregrinación: Acompañenos el 23 de marzo de 2024, para la 13.^a Peregrinación de CYM. Esperamos reunir a mil jóvenes, adultos jóvenes y familias mientras caminamos por las calles de la ciudad de Wilmington con el obispo Koenig, llevando la Cruz de Peregrinación de parroquia en parroquia. El Itinerario es: Oración de apertura y entretenimiento a las 10:00 am en la iglesia St. Elizabeth, pasar por el Hospital St. Francis para una bendición especial a los pacientes, la oportunidad de celebrar la Reconciliación en San Antonio de Padua ,experimentar las Estaciones de la Cruz en la Academia de Padua. Seguir a la iglesia de San Pablo para arrodillarse ante el Santísimo Sacramento y regresar a St. Elizabeth para la Bendición de las Palmas y la Misa de las 4:00 pm. El día termina después de la Misa (alrededor de las 5:15 pm). El costo es de \$15 por persona (\$45 por familia) y contamos con autobús, por \$10 adicionales/persona mayor de 10 años (debes registrarte para tener un asiento). Deberíamos regresar a ICC alrededor de las 7:00 p.m. Hay que llevar su almuerzo. El evento del día es de 9:30 am a 5:15 pm. Comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti para obtener más información y formularios de registro para ICC y detalles del autobús, 410-482-8939.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Class today, 3/3 at 3:00pm-5:00pm. Please bring items for the food drive to today's class to benefit the Good Samaritan Pantry.

Next Class: March 17th 3:00pm-5:00pm

For more information contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, and sharing our Faith Life experiences.

Next Class: March 10th 10:30 AM Matthew/Mark Room.

Is your family interested in joining the Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis with Deacon Vince? Contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

Mark your Calendars for these upcoming formation opportunities!

The **Monday Morning Spiritual Support Group** will be doing Liturgy and Life: Unveiling the Mystical Movement of the Mass, from Matthew Leonard's The Science of Sainthood. Come for video and discussion Monday mornings at 9 am in St. Luke's room in the ELC. All are welcome!

Tuesday offerings:

No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk-Through Christ's Passion "Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Bestselling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life."

All are welcome to join us! This class is every Tuesday (at either 9am or 7pm) until the last class, which is March 19th

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Class:

Sunday, March 3 at 3 pm and Wednesday, March 6 at 6 pm

Parent Meeting:

We will have a parent meeting for Confirmation Candidates on Sunday, March 3, at 5:15 pm and Monday, March 4 at 7 pm in the Matthew Mark room 2nd floor ELC Building. Please have at least one parent present for this meeting —

schedule for interviews and final details for Confirmation will be discussed.

Youth Group:

Meetings for Youth Group will take place on Monday, March 4 and Monday, March 18, this month. We meet from 6:30-8:30 pm in the Luke room of the ELC building 2nd floor.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

- **Confirmation Prep: Session #6, Sunday**
March 10, 3pm-5:30pm in the Parish Hall. This is the last meeting, all papers are due today, no exceptions. **Interviews are March 18th, 19th and 20th at ICC.**
- **First Communion: Prep Session #4** on Tuesday, March 5th, at 6:30pm promptly in parish hall.

CYM Pilgrimage: Now in its thirteenth year, and better than ever. Plan today to join us on March 23, 2024, for the 13th CYM Pilgrimage. We hope to gather one thousand youth, young adults, and families as we walk the city streets of Wilmington with Bishop Koenig, carrying the Pilgrimage Cross from parish to parish. Plans include opening prayer and entertainment at 10:00 am at St. Elizabeth, stopping by St. Francis Hospital for a special blessing of the patients, the chance to celebrate Reconciliation at St. Anthony of Padua, experiencing the Stations of the Cross at Padua Academy, to kneel before the Blessed Sacrament at St. Paul, and return to St. Elizabeth for Blessing of Palms and 4:00 pm Mass. The day ends after Mass (around 5:15pm). The cost is \$15 per person (\$45 for a family) and we have a bus, for an additional \$10/person over 10 years old (you must register to have a seat). We should be returning to ICC at around 7:00pm. The day's event is from 9:30am-5:15pm. **Please contact Alicia Poppiti for more information and registration forms for ICC and bus details, 410-482-8939. Registration due no later than March 17th.**

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will open on March 1st.

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

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

Catechists are always needed and helpers always welcome!!

I am a visual learner. I recall days of frustration listening to the instructor who teaching style was pure lecture. Feeling confounded in my efforts to keep up with the instructor who failed to put notes on the board, who failed to include visuals of any kind in his presentation of the material as I made frenetic attempts to get down dates, names, places, and significant events. That is why I always enjoyed my Math classes best. Math teachers must place examples on the board. I worked best when the teachers used the "I do, we do, you do" approach to instruction while following up with discussion. This approach gives everyone a fighting chance to walk out of the classroom not just with meaningful class notes, but with an explanation of procedure. I always told my students to watch first. Highlighters, post-it notes, charts, tables, graphs, all help me immensely. It is for this reason that power-point presentations are not advantageous for me. The presenter is running through the slides at his pace, not mine. Give me a hard copy any day of the week, please!

I would venture to say that in this day of technology, graphics, and video games, the number of visual learners in the classroom is growing exponentially. With their eyes glued to a multi-colored screen with moving figures and background music it is far more entertaining to learn the ABC's, the multiplication tables, or the names of the fifty states. I get that, if the ends justify the means; so be it. But what's going to happen when they find themselves in a classroom where the teacher drones on and on in her vain attempt to explain the politics surrounding the onset of the Civil War? It is the gifted instructor who can successfully engage the fast-moving mind that has become so accustomed to the feverish pace of computer-based instruction.

So, what does all this have to do with Lent? Now, wait just a second. I'm not suggesting that we should have set aside all technology. That would be futile and foolish, and quite honestly, not too smart.

It is not easy to bring to life the abstract concepts of Christianity. At Holy Cross we teach Catholic faith doctrine every day of every school year. But again, in the spirit of transparency, some of the concepts we teach, and we do it well, are difficult to conceive of. One of the best ways of bringing the faith to life is in the presentation of the Living Stations. The students sit in awe of the re-enactment of Christ's walk to Calvary and the crucifixion. The costumes, the music and sound effects, the graphics provided by the eighth graders as they bring the story to life all lend to the appreciation and comprehension of the greatest story ever told. You won't forget what you have seen as easily as you forget what the teacher said standing in front of the classroom.

There are scores of scientific theories, mathematical procedures, literary references, and political pontifications that escape my understanding. It is by faith alone that I can even begin to grasp the concept of Christian salvation. This is where the faith-filled heart overtakes the literal mind. How does one teach the concept of salvation, the overarching forgiveness of sins, the overwhelming power of prayer, how does one teach....belief? How can you make it concrete? This is the time of the year where we break out the egg cartons containing twelve plastic eggs. Resurrection eggs! With each new day is introduced a new symbol signifying the events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. I marvel at the recall of the students as they identify the meaning of each symbol hidden in each egg. They are learning the story. They are four, maybe five years old. The story will be told each and every year for the entire duration of their enrollment at HCS. The visual is what aids in their recall of the events, in their comprehension, and their ability to "see" the story.

Last week two fifth grade students walked into the elementary office. Both looked identical to one another, with one exception. One of the two students had her uniform altered in a fashion that provoked personal puzzlement, on my part. My immediate response was a look of bewilderment. Josephine, the spokesperson explained the significance of what I gazed upon in bemusement. Josephine explained that in their Religion class they were discussing that in his crucifixion our Lord bore all of our sins. A rather abstract concept to explain in words. Josephine explained that the student was Jesus. In an attempt to bring this concept to life, Mrs. Thompson invited one of the fifth-grade students to come forth while the rest of the class was given a strip of paper. On each strip of paper was written a brief statement reflecting a sin committed thus far in Lent. "I lied to my dad." "I used curse words." "I hit my sister." "I yelled at my parents." "I played video games instead of studying for my test." The strips were collected and taped onto the body of the fifth grader. Her neck, arms, with two affixed to her face, most were stuck onto her uniform, she willfully and bravely accepted the challenge to walk the gauntlet for the rest of the day bearing the sins of her classmates. **What a visual!!** Not a lesson quickly or easily forgotten.

As I performed my afternoon dismissal duty, I watched the student who bore the sins of her peers walk over to the JH Building for Odyssey of the Mind with her teammates. She walked in single file. She remained covered with strips of paper, willing to suffer and accept the public humiliation as did her Savior two thousand years ago.

The student's name? Grace.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God."
Ephesians 2:8

Fr. Ferris) hearing confessions for the full five hours (and probably a little beyond that). Fr. Ferris is able to hear confessions in Spanish.

A Purpose Driven Schedule. The purpose of this intensive schedule is to allow any member of the faithful who wishes to access confession during Lent to have ample opportunities. To allow for the fullest number of people to be able to make their confession, I would ask that the overly-scrupulous not go to confession multiple times during these days of late-Lenten season confessions. We want to allow a place for as many as want to (need to) go to confession to be able to get to confession.

Please Note: Additionally, please note that following Reconciliation Monday (with the exception of danger of death), the next regular time for Confession will on the Saturday morning AFTER Easter (Holy Cross, 8:30-10:00 am).

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Time to Reboot. In the same way that some TV shows and some movie franchises are rebooted from time to time (like the Star Trek movie series, or like TV's Frasier, Mcgyver, Hawaii 5-0, etc.), we also need to reboot from time to time. And the spiritual version of rebooting is called Confession – it is a way of starting over, getting a new beginning. In Confession we confess our sins to the Priest who ministers absolution, and voila, by the power of Christ, our sins are forgiven. But, in the same way that, for example, a TV show reboot will require sincerity (being true to what it is) to forge a successful rebooting, likewise there must be a level of sincerity to our reboot – to our going to confession.

The Perfect and the Imperfect. What do I mean by “there must be a level of sincerity”? Simply, that one has to come to that Sacrament of Reconciliation with (1) perfect contrition (sorrow, out of love of God, for our sins committed) or (2) imperfect contrition (sorrow, out of fear of God's punishment, for our sins committed). With either flavor of contrition, that person must also have a desire to amend his or her life. That is to say: Our confession has to be more than mere words; it must be sincere. Thus, if we go to confession or maliciously omit sins, just to look like we're doing the right thing, well then, our reboot is no better than the 2007 “Bionic Woman” reboot (and trust me, that was not good at all). In that case, our reboot, our new beginning, would be insincere and would fall flat. And please note, there is a big difference between a failed TV reboot and failed spiritual reboot: a bad TV show can shop around for another network, but there is but one God.

So how does one go to confession? If you have forgotten, fear not: Here is a simple guide. If you need to, clip it out, and take it into confession with you. Going to Confession involves twelve easy steps:

1. Go to the Priest, kneel down behind the screen (most common) or sit.
2. Say “In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”
3. Wait for the Priest to speak to you.
4. Say something to indicate you are prepared to confess your sins, common words used are (as is heard in every movie or TV show showing someone going to confession): **“Bless me Father for I have sinned, it has been ____ (how long?) since my last confession:”**
5. Tell the Priest the sins that you know you have committed.
6. Then say something like: **“I am sorry for these and for all of my sins”** (this covers all of the sins you may have forgotten to confess).
7. The Priest will speak to you briefly and give you a penance (usually prayers).
8. The Priest will then ask you to make an Act of Contrition. You can say an Act of Contrition that you are familiar with, or you can say this (or some other form of the Act of Contrition):

“O My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.”

9. The Priest will then absolve you of your sins, by saying: “I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” (he may also use a longer form of absolution at times).

10. You say **“Amen”**

11. The Priest will dismiss you (possibly he will say, “Go in peace”), to which you may say **“Thanks be to God”** or you may simply thank the Priest and leave.

12. As soon as it is possible, do the penance you were assigned.

Welcome Back... So, if you haven't been to confession in a while, fear not, Christ is always ready to welcome you back. Have a blessed and spiritually powerful Season of Lent.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. James Lentini, Pastor