



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 7, 2021

3rd Sunday of Lent

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish
No choirs at the Masses at the present time; a cantor will be available for the 5 pm and the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday and Friday, 12:10 pm
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-Midnight (temporarily closed)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Friday 9 am-noon, closed Wednesday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish
Saturday, 9 am, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, after 9:00 am Mass
Thursday, 6:30 pm

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Friday 9 am-noon, closed Wednesday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

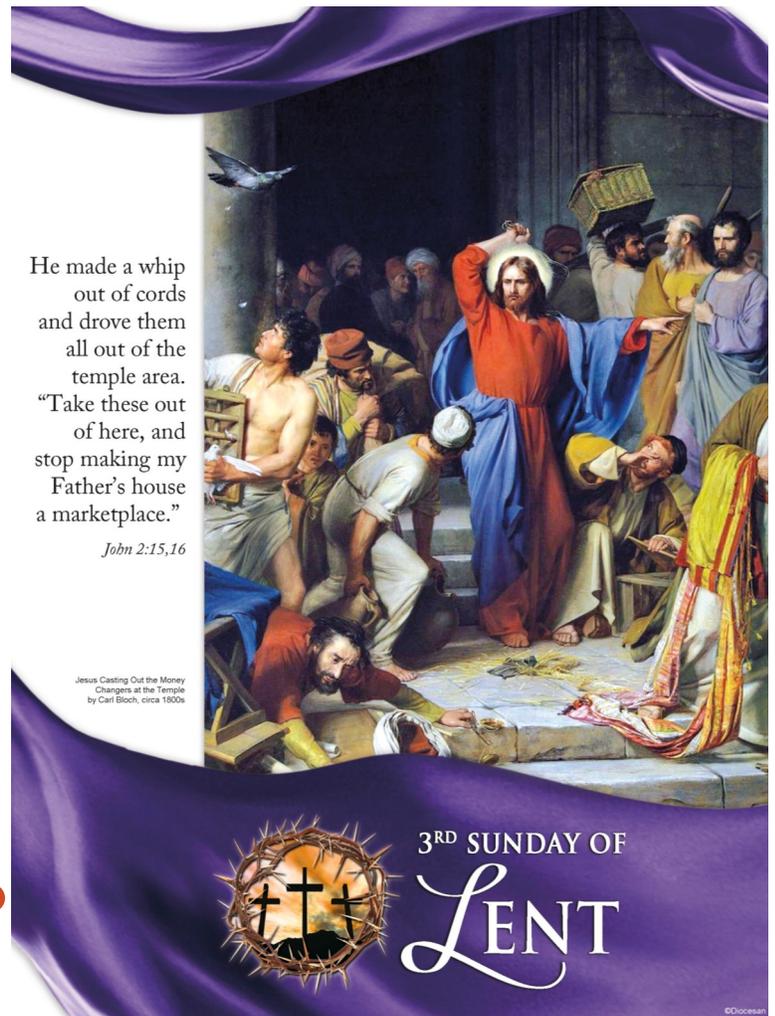
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish
Saturday, 9 am, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, after 9:00 am Mass
Thursday, 6:30 pm



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 1900s



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.

THIS WEEK (HC OR ICC)

Check out our websites

holycrossover.org
iccmarylodel.org

Holy Cross Church will be open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday, and 7 am to 7 pm on Sunday.

Immaculate Conception will be open daily 9 am to 7 pm.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, parishes must continue to adhere to all health and safety regulations without exception. Policies including wearing face masks, maintaining proper six-foot social distancing and proper hand hygiene remain nonnegotiable and are fundamentally rooted in protecting all people in our parishes and maintaining the health and safety of our community. The obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Masses on holy days remains suspended at this time.

We are limiting access to the parish offices, so you can buzz when you stop by, or call and leave messages and we will get back to you; or, you can email us. Stay safe and stay healthy.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

February 21, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$23,568	\$27,800`	(\$4,232)
YTD	\$824,115	\$946,800	(\$122,685)
Needs	\$1,737	\$1,550	\$187

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending February 21, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,188.84
2nd	\$148

Tax letters are ready at ICC. Please call the Parish Office at ICC and they will be mailed to you.

Tax Statement for Holy Cross

The HC Parish Office is preparing tax letters for everyone who contributed during the 2020 year. If we have your email in our records, this information was emailed to you at the end of January. If we do not have your email or you want a hard copy sent to you, please email mdornberger@holycrossover.org. Thank you.

Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time. Many are still not attending Mass but we still need your support. You can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card.

Dear Parishioners,

Numbers: They quantify (e.g., 12 in a dozen) and identify (e.g., he's 6th from the left) for us. They are part of our language and often carry meanings beyond their quantification and identification value. Thus, we know 13 is "bad luck," 666 is the mark of the beast, three is a crowd and seven is counted the perfect number. On TV we recall some numbers, too: "77 Sunset Strip," "90210," "60 Minutes," "30 Rock," and "227." Paul Simon enumerated the "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover," while rock band Chicago announced the time as being "25-or-6 to 4." And we all know what the IRS' 1040 is during tax season, we gamble on a 50/50 raffle, we grab a Slurpee at the 7-11, we love the adventures of .007, and we know Ivory Soap is 99-44/100% pure.

However, as we enter the season of Lent, we have another number in mind, a spiritual one: 40. That number, 40, is so very much associated with Lent, that in Latin, the official language of Catholicism, the season is called "Quadragesima," which means "40th" as in 40th day until Easter. From this Latin word, many romance languages derive their name for Lent: in Spanish Lent is called "Cuaresma" and in Italian "Quaresima."

What's up with 40? So, why 40? Why not 50 days or 60 days or perhaps 33 days? Well, the number 40 has a special place in salvation history – and that number occurs repeatedly through the Scriptures. If I had to specify what the commonality of all of the Biblical references to the number 40 is, I'd have to say that it speaks to an amount necessary to accomplish a part of God's plan. More specifically, in Scripture, the number 40 often is shown to symbolizes a period of testing or trial. For instance, during Moses' life he lived forty years in Egypt and then forty more years in the desert before God selected him to lead his people out of slavery.

In Exodus, Moses was show as being on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights, not once but twice – in Exodus 24:18 and again in Exodus 34:28 – receiving God's laws (The 10 Commandments). Moses, still swimming in the world of 40, notably sent spies, for a 40-day period, to investigate the land God promised the Israelites as an inheritance, as noted in Numbers 13:25, 14:34.

Forty-fied Biblical History. So, where in the Bible are those many 40s of which I spoke? Let's step into the Wayback Machine and set the dial to the time of Noah, and from there we will work

forward in time. On this basis we will examine those funky 40s of the Bible. In this column I will focus on 40 in the Old Testament... and next column, 40 in the New Testament. And away we go...

The "Rain" of God is at Hand. In Genesis, God spares Noah and his family during the cleansing of the earth by the great flood caused by a rain-storm of 40 days and 40 nights. After those 40 days, life began anew for the faithful on the ark. Once Noah and his family found the shore again, God made a covenant that He would never flood the Earth so completely again. There would never be 40 days of rain again – except perhaps in Seattle. This promises of God marked a new Covenant with His people (following the original covenant between Adam and Eve).

Moseying through the Desert. In Exodus, Moses led the Jewish people out of Egypt, with the destination being the Promised Land. Fast forward, 40 years later they finally got there. From this lengthy hike through the desert by Moses we get the English word "mosey" (meaning, to walk or move in a leisurely manner). In any event, this was a 40-year period that served to both test the faith of Moses and his people and re-establish the chosen people in the land given them by God. Since in Biblical times a 40 years was considered a generation, this lag of time made it clear that the "next generation" (i.e., the inheritors, the youngsters at the time of the Exodus – the meek) would inherit the land. Perhaps it took 40 years to get from Egypt to Israel because, as a man, Moses refused to stop and ask directions.

Idol Time. As noted earlier, in Exodus 34:28, we learn that Moses spent 40 days with God on Mt. Sinai. It was at the end of this 40-day period that we, by way of Moses, received the Ten Commandments. Of note, while Moses was on the mountain for 40 days, the Jewish people below who were traveling with him got restless. They began giving up on God... and they asked Moses' brother Aaron to create an idol – in the form of golden bull – that they could worship. When Moses comes back with the Commandments, number one of the list is "I am the Lord your God, you shall not put false God's before me." Remember when I said that the number 40 often symbolizes a period of testing or trial: Well, this was the test of the faithfulness of God's people... and although they were found wanting after this trial, God revealed to them what they needed to correct themselves.

Wife Begins at Forty. In Genesis 25:20 we hear

(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. Robert McMullen Deacon
 Mr. Vincent Pisano Deacon

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell Deacon

HC STAFF

Parish Office 302 674 5787
 Jane Green/Susan Cutrona 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. 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

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

LEAVING ITEMS IN CHURCH

Please **do not** leave cards, religious items, clothing, or other such items in the lobby area of the Gathering Space. We cannot accept any of these items at this time.

RECENT DEATHS (HC)

Our condolences to the family of:
 • F. Marie Weaver
 May the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:
 • Fernando Gael Cortes-Betancourt
 • Beringer David Jones

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered parishioners::
 • Christopher and Austin Yarem and Jaime DeAngelis
 • Jose and Elva Rodriguez

RETROUVAILLE

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 April 16-18, 2021 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.

READINGS FOR MARCH 14 4TH SUNDAY LENT

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

Israel's sinfulness brings destruction on Jerusalem and years of exile; the Lord's intervention, though Persian king Cyrus, brings an end to exile and offers the possibility of homecoming.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 4:2-10

We are God's "work of art"; though marred by sin, we are restored as a new creation through God's loving goodness, shown in Christ.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:14-21

Jesus, hanging lifeless on a cross, is the supreme sign that he came into our world out of love and in order to save us.

K OF C FISH FRY

Every Friday in Lent from 4 pm to 7 pm the Knight will offer Lenten Dinners at the Columbian Hall. Proceeds will go to Holy Cross and Immaculate conception Churches at the discretion of Fr. Lentini.

All meals are take out and can be picked up at the Columbian Home, 219 Vepco Blvd, Camden.

Menu is subject to change.

Mar 12—6 large shrimp, tator tots, cole slaw \$10

Mar 19—2 crab cakes on HB bun, mac & cheese, cole slaw \$10

Mar 26—Shrimp or cod, mac & cheese or tater tots, cole slaw \$10

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Even though we are not opening the Adoration Chapel at this time, anyone who was on the normal adoration schedule is encouraged to come into the church to pray during your assigned hour. The church is unlocked from 7 am to 7 pm and Our Lord is waiting for you to come spend time with Him. Our Lord is present in the tabernacle all day long and would love for you to spend time praying. It's a great way to get back into the routine of praying during your scheduled hour.

VOCATIONS

Saint Junipero Serra, the Franciscan priest who founded nine of California's missions, was a model of perseverance and strong faith. Despite a chronic foot infection, Serra walked more miles in his career than the expeditions of Lewis and Clark and Marco Polo combined, all to spread the Good News.

It was perhaps providential that the founders of Serra International, the organization of lay Catholics who promote vocations, chose Fr. Junipero Serra as their patron in 1935. Now, even more than then, the work of promoting vocations requires perseverance and strong faith.

Please continue to pray for an increase in vocations to priesthood, sisterhood, and brotherhood, and for all vocations to the consecrated life.

Serra for priestly and religious vocations.

LENT
PRAYER FASTING ALMS GIVING



MASS INTENTIONS

MARCH

8 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am John and Alice McGlynn
HC 12:10 pm DM Francis/Lessard/Pool/
Jefferson Families

9 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am James B. Lynch

10 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Henry G. Bierbaum

11 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Gertrude Trojan
ICC 6 pm For the People

12 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Pauline Doroshenko
HC 12:10 pm Edward Pizzi

13 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Rev. Joseph Etim
HC 5 pm Joanne DelPaquila

14 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Michael Ciccarelli
ICC 8:30 am Ed & Deloris McGowan
HC 9:30 am Alexander Siegel
HC 11:30 am James Holder, Jr.
ICC 11 am Vittorio Cristiano
ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION
DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)

JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY MASS LIVE-STREAM
FROM THE
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT PETER
IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE

WATCH LIVE **SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:30**
OR WATCH THE REPLAY ANYTIME

www.YouTube.com/DIOCESEOFWILM

PLEASE COME FORWARD TO HELP DISTRIBUTE HOLY COMMUNION AT THE MASS YOU ATTEND. THE PRIEST WILL INDICATE HOW MANY EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS ARE NEEDED.

Lector Schedule for March 2021

At Holy Cross:

5 pm Mass

- Mar 6 Fran Urick
- Mar 13 Lori Christiansen
- Mar 20 Donna Kilby
- Mar 27 Hazel Showell

7:30 am Mass

- Mar 7 Christina Cuffee
- Mar 14 John Davis
- Mar 21 Rose Pritchett
- Mar 28 Rose Pritchett

9:30 am Mass

- Mar 7 Mary Sherlock
- Mar 14 Tamra Baurys
- Mar 21 Judy Coffield
- Mar 28 Mary Louise Sossich

At Immaculate Conception

8:30 am Mass

- Mar 7 Karen Cairns

11 am Mass

- Mar 7 Sharon Tucker

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at dbelt@holycrossdover.org so we can add you to the names of those who have already volunteered to lector.

At ICC, please get in touch with Marilyn Dixon at mdixon@iccmaryl.org Thank you.

DIRECTORIES (HC)

The Parish Directories are in the Parish Office. If you would like to stop by the office to pick up your copy, please call ahead of time and we will get your copy and have it for you to pick up. Please do not just show up without calling first.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

As Christians we believe that the spirit of Jesus abides within each of us. Look at your beloved today and see Jesus. Listen to each other.

PARENTING POINTERS

During the pandemic it can seem like each day just merges into the next. It can get boring or tiring. Why not agree to do one common family sacrifice today, such as everyone skipping dessert.

LENTEN IDEAS

Need a little help as you journey through Lent? Visit the Diocese of Wilmington's Lent web page at cdow.org/Lent for a calendar of Lenten activities, videos, resources, and more. \

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEKS CROSSWORD PUZZLE THAT APPEARED IN THE PASTOR'S COLUMN:



Prácticas Cuaresmales y todo el tiempo en la vida del cristiano. La Oración, el Ayuno y la Limosna.

Oración (Misa diaria, visita al Santísimo, leer las Sagradas Escrituras Lectio Divina, Liturgia de las horas, rezo del santo Rosario, el Vía Crucis) Orar en familia. La oración es crucial en la vida del cristiano. Nos enfocaremos esta semana en la Oración. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica nos dice: 2725" La oración es un don de la gracia y una respuesta decidida por nuestra parte. Supone siempre un esfuerzo. Los grandes orantes de la Antigua Alianza antes de Cristo, así como la Madre de Dios y los santos con Él nos enseñan que la oración es un combate. ¿Contra quién? Contra nosotros mismos y contra las astucias del Tentador que hace todo lo posible por separar al hombre de la oración, de la unión con su Dios. Se ora como se vive, porque se vive como se ora. El que no quiere actuar habitualmente según el Espíritu de Cristo, tampoco podrá orar habitualmente en su Nombre.

El "Combate Espiritual" de la vida nueva del cristiano es inseparable del combate de la oración" 2728 Por último, en este combate hay que hacer frente a lo que es sentido como fracasos en la oración: desaliento ante la sequedad, tristeza de no entregarnos totalmente al Señor, porque tenemos "muchos bienes" (cf Mc 10, 22), decepción por no ser escuchados según nuestra propia voluntad; herida de nuestro orgullo que se endurece en nuestra indignidad de pecadores, difícil aceptación de la gratuidad de la oración, etc. La conclusión es siempre la misma: ¿Para qué orar? Es necesario luchar con humildad, confianza y perseverancia, si se quieren vencer estos obstáculos. Les invito a que lean el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica y aprenderás todo lo que nos enseña la Madre Iglesia. La Oración es un encuentro personal con Dios.

Si hay algún adulto que no ha recibido su sacramento de la Confirmación y desea información sobre las clases por favor anótese con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
adosman@holycrossdover.org Recuerde que para ser un padrino tiene que tener todos los

Sacramentos de Iniciación Cristiana.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

¡Traiga sus mochilas Azul con libros a clase! La Sesión 4 se estará entregando ahora. Por favor venga al salón después de la Misa para recoger el suyo.

Grupo 1- grados 3,6, en el salón, 7,8 en el sótano (basement), y RICA estará en el salón de computadoras - presencial el 7 de marzo.

Grupo 2- grados 1, 2, en el salón, 4,5 en los salones del Basement (sótano) y RICA en el salón de computadoras- presencial 14 de marzo.

Si tiene alguna pregunta o prefiere que sus hijos continúen haciendo Educación Religiosa en casa, hágaselo saber a la Sra. Alicia Poppiti, Directora de Educación Religiosa al 410-482-8939 o envíele un correo electrónico a dre@iccmmarydel.org

¡Cuaresma! Los libros con material de la Cuaresma para los niños, todavía se siguen entregando.

2021 clases de Preparación para la Primera Comuni3n.

La próxima sesi3n: martes, 29 de marzo, a las 6:30 en el salón.

Preparaci3n para la Confirmaci3n 2020-2021 -ICC

Nuestra próxima sesi3n de preparaci3n es el Retiro de Confirmaci3n que será el ** SABADO, 13 DE MARZO de 12-5pm en el Sal3n Parroquial**.

Es para los j3venes de octavo grado y de secundaria que est3n inscritos para comenzar la preparaci3n para la Confirmaci3n. Solamente para los j3venes, no para padres ni para padrinos en esta sesi3n.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class

March 7th 3:30-5:30 pm

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

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

March 14th 10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room

Next session April 11th

CONFIRMATION CLASSES (HC)

Confirmation class will take place on Sunday, March 7 at 2 and 4 pm and Wednesday, March 10 at 6 pm .

CONFIRMATION MAKEUP CLASS (HC)

For those teens who missed January 17 or January 27 class, makeup will be **Saturday, March 13** at 10 am .

PARENT MEETING FOR CANDIDATES:

Sunday, February 28 OR Monday, March 1, at 7 pm in the Parish Hall. Please have one parent attend - candidates welcome to join the meeting. Final instructions for Confirmation will be shared.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

Bring your Blue Book Bags with books to class!
Group 2- grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement and RCIA in the computer center- on site today **March 14**.

Group 1- grades 3, 6, in the hall, 7, 8 in the basement, and RCIA in the computer center -on site **March 7**.

Alicia Poppiti, Director of Religious Education at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmaryl.org

LENT: Lenten booklets for the children are still being given out.

2021 FIRST COMMUNION PREP-ICC

Next session: Tuesday, March 9, at 6:30pm in the Hall.

CONFIRMATION PREP 2020-2021-ICC

Our next Prep session is the Confirmation Retreat: will take place on ****Saturday, March 13th** from 12-5pm in the hall at Immaculate Conception the Parish Hall. This is for the youth only, no parents or Sponsors at this session.

LENT

- **During Lent Holy Cross will offer the daily 8 am Mass, Monday thru Saturday. They will also offer a 12:10 pm Mass on Mondays and Fridays only.**
- **Confessions at Holy Cross will be at 5:30 pm on Fridays during Lent in addition to the normal Saturday morning time of 8:30—10 am.**
- **Stations of the Cross will take place at HC and ICC at 7 pm on Fridays during Lent.**

ADULT FAITH FORMATION ON-LINE OPPORTUNITIES

Morning Offering

<https://www.morningoffering.com/>

A Catholic daily devotional email delivering daily wisdom and inspiration to help you grow in faith

Popes in a Year

<http://flocknote.com/popes>

We know the current pope traces his authority all the way back to the first pope (St. Peter). But do you know much about all the popes in between? Join us (and thousands of your closest friends!) on a journey from St. Peter all the way to Pope Francis. Each weekday morning, we'll send you a short, engaging 2-minute something about one pope. By the end of the year, you'll know something about every single one!

Daily Reflections

<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/daily-reflections.html>

Start each day with an inspiring quote sent directly to your inbox. These simple yet powerful messages will help you to live each day with passion and purpose.

Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast

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

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021. Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz, and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible Timeline® learning system, a groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins. Tune in and live your daily life

Did you know that just a few sprinkles of baby powder in the hair can age you by 95 years? The aging factor is also boosted in the ladies by simply rolling their hair in those old fashioned pink foam rubber rollers from back in the day, and the same can be said for the gentlemen by simply adding a pair of suspenders to the day's attire. And, according to Elizabeth's mom; Party City is the place to go for a pair of stylish new spectacles. It was a hoot! We dismissed our five year olds on Friday, and on Monday I walked into an old folks' home. I felt like a spring chicken!

It was the Kindergarten's annual celebration of the 100th Day of school. The teachers and children had decided to try something new. In past years the students had selected one hundred small items of one sort or another and glued them to a tee-shirt. This was followed up by a fashion show in the parish hall where each student walked the runway modelling their new and trendy creation. Bowing to protocol, a new and different approach was the order for the day.

But don't think that Kindergarten is the only place where the overnight aging phenomenon happens! We had to be real careful not trip over all the walking canes! That same curious aging marvel had also struck in our second grade! It was a spectacle of another sort. Mrs. Zappulo in her mid-calf skirt and shawl around the shoulders, and Miss Christiansen in her long flannel house dress with bun atop her head only added to the amusement. It was the 100th day of school and, for once, the eighth graders weren't the oldest kids on campus!

It was on the Sunday following the 99th school day that we held our first, last, and only event for this school year that would be open to the public. All thanks to Mrs. Zink for her great effort in very carefully orchestrating this occasion where all of our guests had to pre-register online. Following the pre-registration, an arrival time was assigned each family. Upon arrival, the family was introduced to the teacher of the grade level in which the family had indicated interest. A casual reference was made to the other rooms on the first floor learning center as the designated teacher escorted the family to the classroom of interest. Despite the rigid guidelines imposed on the day's event, it was a huge success affording us the chance to share all of the gems to be found in the daily experiences of the ELC. We were so pleased with the turn-out and the number of newly enrolled students that we realized at the conclusion of the day. We say welcome home to Mr. David Schmid and Mrs. Kelsey Stryker (Milligan) both graduates of Holy Cross School! I was in walking across the parking lot with Mr. Schmid when he made reference to his HCS days and how he felt so better prepared for high school in comparison to his peers from the other local schools. In response to his kind words, I replied by saying that he wasn't the only one to voice those words. It was in the TYO Room where I caught up with Mrs. Stryker. In our conversation she told me that she was determined to bring her son (NOAH??)

to Holy Cross for the religious instruction and safe environment. Currently my daily schedule is peppered with interviews with prospective families. I enjoy meeting the young children for whom moms and dads have decided to invest in the quality education that is found at our school. This has been a difficult year, I won't deny that. But the quality of the education that our students receive from the youngest to the oldest has never been compromised or sacrificed. The one common denominator in all of my conversations with prospective families is the "good word on the street."

So, speaking of the good word on the street and the strength of our program, I'd like to mention a few words about a classroom observation I conducted a couple weeks ago. I was observing Mrs. Riecks. Mrs. Riecks teaches Science in our Junior High. On this particular day she was reviewing a lesson on lunar phases before transitioning across the hall to the Science Lab. When I know I am observing Mrs. Riecks, I always secretly hope that we will be in the lab. I love seeing all of the sophisticated and technical equipment our students are learning to use. In the JH, our students use the LabLearner curriculum. It is a demanding curriculum, and the one thing I like most is that it's cross-curricular. The student has to combine his knowledge of Math, and Writing with the Science. This day was no exception. Just a word of warning here, I might not get all of the Science and terminology right, but I was quite impressed by our sixth graders' apparent familiarity with the established etiquette and procedures in the lab. Working in groups of four at large lab tables our students were tasked with determining the amount of sunlight cast down on two different areas of the globe. There was a globe, a light bulb, and a light meter on each table. The two geographic areas for discussion were Santiago, Chile and Washington D.C. That would be two different hemispheres and two different areas that experience concurrently contrasting seasons. The question is why. I walked around observing as the students moved the globe into four different positions around the sun and measured the light using the light meter. Working harmoniously, one moved the globe while another measured the light. All recorded their observations. Switch roles, and repeat. Everyone got a turn. After all four readings were completed; it was time to calculate the average. It was an excellent lesson.

While all this is happening in the Science lab I know that our first graders are working hard in Reading, our second graders are busy preparing for their First Holy Communion, our third graders are learning about subatomic particles and mathematical properties, and our fourth and fifth graders are completing their standardized testing in Reading and Math, while some of our seventh graders are multiplying rational numbers and our eighth graders are busy preparing the Living Stations.

This, my friends is why the word on the street is a good one!

that “Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah” and, then regarding Isaac’s son, “When Esau was forty years old, he married Judith” (Genesis 26:34).

Whiplash. In Deuteronomy, forty is noted as the acceptable amount of punishment by whipping (40 lashes).

I Hope they Had a Big Car. In Judges, we are told that a judge named Abdon had 40 sons (12:14). Now, this would certainly beat out the number of kids in the cast of the “Brady Bunch” and “Eight is Enough” by a large stretch. As I mentioned, one of the aspects of the number 40 in scripture that it can portend a testing of a person. I have to imagine that having 40 kids would be quite a test.

Speaking of the book of Book of Judges... Before there was a king in Israel, there were judges who would rule but the nation would eventually fall into idolatry. Each time they did, they lost favor with God, and another nation would attack them after which they would repent and turn back to God. This happened over and over again, and every time they cried out to God and again, He would deliver them and give them 40 years of rest.

The Californians Did What? Then in Judge 13:1, the Israelites “did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, who therefore delivered them into the power of the Philistines for forty years.” Much like the 40 lashes mentioned in Deuteronomy, it was deemed that 40 was the proper number for years of punishment due. And this really was a punishment, because the Philistines were, well, Philistines. It would be like being sent to live under the rule of Californians for 40 years – I know, I know... it gave me a shudder up my spine, too.

Big Trouble. Remember that nasty old Goliath. He was said to be four cubits and a span tall (cubit was the length of an adult forearm – 18” and a span was the length between an extended thumb and pinkie-finger – 9”). Quick math: Goliath was 6’9”. Unnaturally tall in his day, Goliath was, dare I say, big trouble for the Jewish people. He was a Philistine soldier who enjoyed humiliating Israelites. The Philistine and Israelite armies stood on opposite sides for 40 days. Every day, one of the Israelite soldiers would come out to challenge Goliath, and every day, those Israelite soldiers met defeat. After 40 days, and I would guess 39 soldiers, the 40th Israelite challenger was not a soldier. The challenger was, instead, David, a young shepherd from Bethlehem, was sent by God to defeat the Philistines, opening a new chapter for the Israelites—namely, the solidification of the kingdom of Israel. I guess 40th time was a charm.

We Three Kings. King Saul, King David and King Solomon each ruled Israel for 40 years. And with David being the identified titular throne holder (i.e., the monarchs of Israel took “the throne of David” when they became king), did you ever wonder how many successor he had? You guessed it – 40!

Prophet or Loss. In the Book of the Prophet Jonah, God gave the people of Nineveh 40 days to repent from their sins or face destruction and the loss of their city. This Biblical story speaks very clearly to our idea of the 40 days of Lent being used as a time to turn back to God.

Egypt Punished. In Ezekiel 29:11, God promises to punish Egypt for 40 years, for its misdeeds to his people: “No foot shall pass through it, no human being or beast cross it; it will remain uninhabited for forty years. I will make the land of Egypt the most desolate, among desolate lands; its cities, the most deserted, among deserted cities for forty years.”

Lay of the Land. The Prophet Ezekiel was commanded by God to lay on his left side for 390 days and his right side for 40 days to “bear the iniquities” of the Kingdom Israel and the Kingdom of Judea, respectively. Why these two numbers of days? They corresponded to the number of years each kingdom were unfaithful to God.

Start Trek: The Next Generation. In the First Book of Kings, an angel tells Elijah that he must eat and drink to have strength for the trek he was on. He did so, and was able to continue his trek for 40 days. Holy Gatorade, Batman! That’s a show of hearing and heeding God’s message can prepare one for endurance.

Next column: The New Testament and the Number 40.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

