



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

May 29, 2022

Ascension of the Lord

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

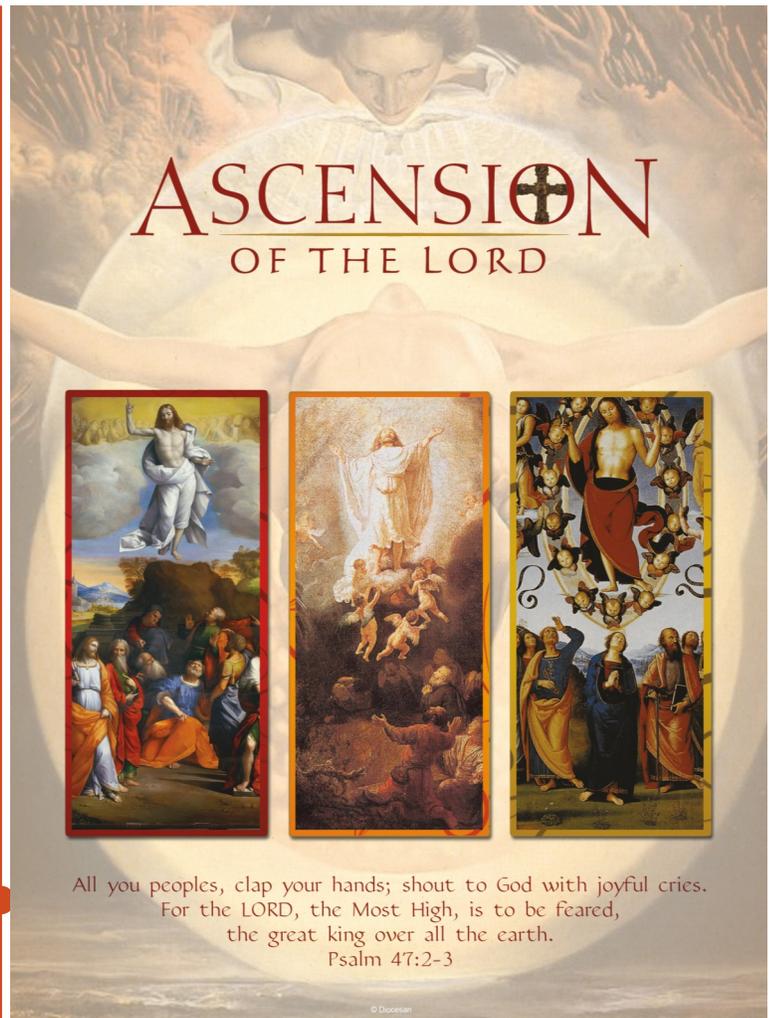
Monday-Saturday, 8 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am—9 pm



All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with joyful cries.
For the LORD, the Most High, is to be feared,
the great king over all the earth.
Psalm 47:2-3

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm

HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

Mary, Mother of God, January 1
Assumption, August 15
All Saints' Day, November 1
Immaculate Conception, December 8
Christmas, December 25

Mass schedules for Holy Days of Obligation and other special days will be printed in the bulletin as each one draws near

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

The seven Sacraments of the Church were instituted by Christ to confer grace.

Sacrament of Baptism. Call the office to register for Parent Pre-Baptismal Instruction. For adults seeking to enter the Church and be Baptized, contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for Confession at age seven as part of First Communion preparation.

Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Children in our religious education program and school are prepared for First Communion at age seven. Adults seeking First Communion should contact our Religious Education Office. To request a visitation for Holy Communion to the Sick, contact our parish office.

Sacrament of Confirmation. Young people in our parish are prepared for reception of Confirmation in the ninth grade (age 14). Adults seeking Confirmation should contact our Religious Education Office.

Sacrament of Marriage. Couples planning for Marriage are to contact a parish priest or deacon one year in advance to set the wedding date and plan for pre-Cana instruction.

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

Anointing of the Sick. For the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick, which is administered by a Priest, a person or an immediate family member must make the request. Late night requests may not be able to be answered until the next day.

MEMORIAL DAY

Holy Cross will hold its annual Memorial Day Mass on Monday, May 30, at 9 am in the church



Parish and School Offices will be closed in observance of the holiday.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, June 4th, tune in to learn about the life of a retired diocesan priest and about the annual second collection that benefits the priests' retirement fund. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [@CatholicForum](https://facebook.com/CatholicForum).

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

May 15, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$23,436	\$25,600	(\$2,164)
YTD	\$1,208,654	\$1,196,000	\$12,654
Needs	\$1,521	\$1,480	\$41

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending May 15, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$8,205
2nd collection	\$698

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,

An Appeal about the Appeal. A quick reminder: our Parishes (Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception) are still in the midst of our Diocese's Annual Catholic Appeal. Both parishes are still working towards meeting their goal — and we need the help of the faithful to reach that goal. The funds raised in the Annual Appeal go to support the number of Catholic ministries that are at work in our Diocese (go to www.iccmarydel.org/appeal to see what ministries your appeal donation helps to fund). If you have not yet made a pledge to the this year's Annual Catholic Appeal, I would ask you to please consider making one at this time. Envelopes for the Annual Catholic Appeal are available in the Church and the parish office, or you can call the office and we'll mail one to you. If you wish to make your donation online, go to www.iccmarydel.org/appeal and click the online payment button (be sure to indicate your parish — either "Holy Cross, Dover" or "Immaculate Conception, Marydel"). Thank you for your faithful consideration and generosity!

Memorial Day Remembrance. This weekend is Memorial Day weekend, when we remember those who served in the armed forces of our nation, and made the ultimate sacrifice, and indeed all those who served and have passed on from this life. On Memorial Day, we pause to remember, and to pray for the dead.

Memorial Day Pause. Well, your Pastor is taking a pause from his pen this weekend; I have selected a previous column from a past Memorial Day — one of my favorite columns on the topic — and using this week. It involves a song, that reminds us of those who gave their lives so that we might live, while at the same times commends us to remember the one who gave us the ultimate gift of freedom: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Have a wonderful Memorial Day weekend and remember those who gave all.

— — —

Singer Billy Ray Cyrus, a country singer with pop ambitions, topped the music charts for over a month in 1994 with the painful but memorable song, "*Achy Breaky Heart*." Even those who loathed that song (and there are likely many), nonetheless still have it echoing somewhere in the recesses of their brain. Though that song was a

one-hit wonder's one big hit, on this Memorial Day, I want to invoke a lesser known song by Billy Ray Cyrus. A song which was a relative flop (peaking at #52 on the country chart), but possessing a powerful message, entitled, "*Some Gave All*."

Remembering. "*Some Gave All*" always pops into my head whenever Memorial Day comes on the horizon, as it reminds its listeners of exactly what it is that we are "memorializing" on this special national holiday. The song's lyrics tell about a conversation between the singer and a veteran named Sandy Cane, who spoke about the value of remembering those who gave their life in the service of their fellow man. The chorus of the song goes as follows:

All gave some, some gave all.

*Some stood through
for the red, white and blue,
and some had to fall.*

*And if you ever think of me,
think of all your liberties — and recall:*

Some gave all.

Those Who Gave All. On Memorial Day, we remember those men and women who "gave all" and made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our nation. We remember their bravery, their commitment and their love of God and country. They may no longer be here with us, but they are not forgotten. They may no longer be here with us, but they collectively serve as a landmark to show us the way to serve others.

No Greater Love. In the Gospel of St. John (15:11-12), Christ tells his faithful followers: "*This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.*" On this Memorial Day, we remember those brave soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and others in the Armed Forces of our nation who showed that ultimate love of which there is none greater; we remember those who gave their lives so that we might enjoy the right to life.

They Laid Down their Lives. That being

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

MEN OF HOLY CROSS

It is now easier than ever for you to join the Men of The Holy Cross group! You are welcome to come in person on the second floor of the ELC building, or participate from the comfort of your home, sitting in your favorite chair with a cup of coffee. Thanks to our newest innovation (a state of the art "Meeting Owl" which makes you feel like you are there in person), all you need is your smartphone, tablet or computer. Just type in on a web browser the below link or click on the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting set up and join our hybrid meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/83606382292> pass code 631 Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM (time certain) We are starting a video series produced by the Knights of Columbus titled "Into the Breach" beginning on June 1st and continuing for 13 weeks.

SVDP MEETING AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. Vincent de Paul meeting the 2nd Mon. of the month at 5 PM, in the office meeting room.
Next meeting is Monday, June 13, 2022, at 5 pm.

PENTECOST

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:1-11

An unusual noise brought people rushing to where the apostles were. They found them filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in diverse languages.

SECOND READING : ROMANS 8:8-17

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit transforms human beings so that they become spiritual people.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:15-16, 23-26

The Spirit of God comes to dwell with all who live by Christ's teachings, guiding them in how to live.

AMERICAN FLAGS

The Cemetery Committee members will be in the Gathering Space following all weekend Masses. American flags for our Veterans' graves will be available for \$5; donations are welcomed. In addition to obtaining information about our cemetery, you can find out about ordering monument flower vases, flag holders, placing an order for an engraved brick paver, and signing up for an appointment call-back from our cemetery administrator.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP

A post-holiday cemetery clean-up will be conducted on Saturday, June 11th. Everything except artificial and live flowers will be removed. Please remove items you wish to keep before then.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our prayers shawl ministry continues to meet each Tuesday morning from 10 am to 12 Noon in the St. Luke Room on the second floor of the Early Learning Center Building. Newcomers are welcome. If you know someone who could use a prayer shawl or if you would like one yourself, please call the parish office and we can pass along the message to the group.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

If you're too busy to have a weekly date with your spouse, you may be too busy. Tonight choose several hours next weekend that you can devote just to each other. This week the wife plans what to do, next week it's the husband's turn.

PARENTING POINTERS

Just as God gave us commandments, healthy families have rules that help keep order and keep the peace. What are some of your family rules? Do you need any new ones? Let go of outdated ones? Discuss together.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. For more info:

www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

MASS INTENTIONS MAY/JUNE

30 MONDAY

HC 9:00 am Jason and Mary Grasso

31 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Lida Smith

1 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Mary Dodd (LI)

2 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Phillip C. Hashem, III
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

3 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Eileen Burnett

4 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Donald Dixon
HC 5 pm Andrew Julia

5 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Robert M. Sadusky, Sr.
ICC 8:30 am William F. And Ann R. Sullivan
HC 9:30 am Albert Baca
ICC 11 am Martha Haas
HC 11:30 am Theodore Morris
ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

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

MEMORIAL DAY



HOLY CROSS JUNE 4/5, 2022			
	EMHC		SERVERS
5:00 PM	J. Bieker	J. Clendaniel	A. Torbert
	C. Bugglin M. Casey	F. Ernst	B. Torbert C. Torbert
			LECTORS
			J. Davis F. Urick
7:30 AM	C. Brown	J. Fischer	E. Bydlon
	J. Chandler	A. Wyllie	C. Wilk
	A. Fischer		
			LECTORS
			J. Davi
9:30 AM	T. Arndt	P. Ford	A. Costa
	K. Boyer	S. Ford	E. Costa
	D. Martinez		M. Costa
			LECTORS
			T. Baurys J. Coffield
11:30 AM	R. Ramirez	R. Richards	K. Espinosa
	B. Guzman	E. Guzman	C. Geronimo
			LECTORS
			A. Luna
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	G. Godfrey		
	LECTORS		
			B. Thompson
11:00 AM	G. Taraila		
	LECTORS		
			S. Tucker
1:00 PM	To be determined		
	LECTORS		

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

Parishioners in need of our Homebound Ministry is growing by leaps and bounds, and we need more EM's who are willing to become part of our homebound ministry. We serve nursing homes, assisted living facilities, the hospital, and those at home. Please consider joining this ministry. We will train you and have you shadow another EM to get you ready. Call the Parish Office so we can get you started. Please pray to discern if this ministry would be for you. We need your help!!
Call 302-674-5787,
ext. 110 or 113 to leave your name.

**JOIN THE KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS**

It's a question every Catholic man needs to ask - and answer. God calls you to lead with faith in all you do. The Knights of Columbus is here to help. We offer the Catholic faith formation, financial protection, and family resources that can help you grow as a father, husband, and leader. With the Knights, you can become the man you want to be - and your family needs. Learn more at KofC.org and find out how you can make a difference and enjoy the benefits of becoming a Knight. Lead, they'll follow.

NEWLY REGISTERED

Welcome to our newly registered families at Holy Cross:

- Andres, Maria, Arismely and Anderson Garcia
- Dan and Nancy Somma
- Lili Hemphill

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest baptized members:

- Darren Anthony Czech
- Keily Dalila Ortiz Morales
- Rony Roberto Lopez, Jr.
- Avery Mae Scott
- Asher Gray Scott
- Moses James McNatt
- Lloyd Rayne McNatt

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY	6 am, 10 am, 5 pm, 8 pm
TUESDAY	3 pm
WEDNESDAY	8 am
THURSDAY	12 pm
SATURDAY	5 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANA

- El domingo 19 de junio de 2022 marca la fiesta del Corpus Christi, en la que los católicos celebran y honran el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesucristo en el Sacramento de la Sagrada Eucaristía. La Fiesta del Corpus Christi de este año también inicia el comienzo del Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional de tres años para todos los católicos en los Estados Unidos.
- Para celebrar esta trascendental ocasión, el domingo 19 de junio después de nuestra Santa Misa tendremos una procesión con el Santísimo se les invita a los padres de los niños que hicieron su Primera Comunión de vestir a sus hijos con la ropa de con que recibieron por primera vez el Cuerpo de Cristo. Esto se hará en varias parroquias a nivel Nacional. El obispo Koenig celebrará una Misa especial en la Catedral de San Pedro (500 N West Street, Wilmington, DE) seguida de una procesión con la Sagrada Eucaristía por las calles de Wilmington a partir de las 3:00 p.m. Todos están invitados por el Obispo Koenig a unirse a la Misa de Corpus Christi y la Procesión Eucarística para este día especial de devoción y oración en la Ciudad de Wilmington. Como esto marca el comienzo del Año Diocesano del Avivamiento Eucarístico en la Diócesis de Wilmington, todas las parroquias están invitadas a enviar al menos cinco representantes para participar en esta Misa y Procesión especiales. Se compartirán más detalles en las próximas semanas.
- Los Obispos de los Estados Unidos están llamando a un avivamiento de tres años de la devoción y la creencia en la Presencia Real de Jesús en la Eucaristía. Creen que Dios quiere ver un movimiento de católicos en todo Estados Unidos, curados, convertidos, formados y unificados por un encuentro con Jesús en la Eucaristía, y enviados en misión "para la vida del mundo". Estos tres años culminarán con el primer Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Estados Unidos en casi cincuenta años. Casi cien mil católicos se reunirán en Indianápolis en una peregrinación única hacia la "fuente y cumbre" de nuestra fe católica. Que culminara con un Congreso Eucarístico Nacional en Indianápolis, Indiana del 17-21 del 2024.
- Nuestras felicitaciones y oraciones para nuestro Recién ordenado sacerdote Brennan Hill Ferris ordenado el pasado 21 de mayo por el obispo William Koenig y al diacono en transición John Enemu que fue ordenado el pasado 14 de mayo también por el obispo Koenig. Oremos por nuestros sacerdotes.
- Confirmación para Adultos: Si usted es mayor de 18 años de edad y no se ha recibido

su sacramento de la Confirmación las clases de preparación empezaran pronto. Habrá Confirmaciones de Adultos Hispano el domingo 10 de Julio. Para más información hable con el Sr. Antonio Luna o llame a la oficina de la parroquia al 302-674-5787 ext. 118.

- 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
- La virgen peregrina empezara visitando casas el próximo domingo, si usted desea tener la virgen en su casa por una semana por favor hable con la Sra. Marta Espinosa.
- Educación Religiosa: ¡Ya están abiertas las inscripciones para el año 2022-2023! Los formularios de registro están disponibles en línea <https://holycrossover.org> haga clic donde dice Religious Education y baja una aplicación, también los puede solicitar en la oficina de Educación Religiosa. Reconocemos a los padres como los primeros maestros en la formación de la fe de su niño. Nuestra esperanza es trabajar y guiar a los padres según sea necesario a través de nuestro Programa de Educación Religiosa, pero necesitamos su ayuda en inscribir a su niño con tiempo para poder proporcionar el material y la formación adecuada a su hijo. Haga esto una prioridad de inscribirlos a tiempo.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

- La Inscripción para el año escolar 2022-2023 todavía se está aceptando aplicaciones, las inscripciones están disponibles a todas las familias. Tiene que inscribir a su hijo cada año Por favor devolver las aplicaciones a Alicia Poppiti lo antes posible eso es ahora para que podamos estar seguros de tener suficientes maestros y espacio en los salones.
- Necesitamos Catequistas, asistentes, substitutes, y ayudantes para el próximo año para la Educación Religiosa los domingos en la mañana desde septiembre 18 hasta Mayo, 9:40- 10:50. Contacte a la Sra. Alicia Poppiti@ 410-482-8939 o dre@iccmmarydel.org para más información.
- Sacramentos:
- La Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones en La Inmaculada Concepción es del 1 al 5 de agosto, de 6 a 8:30 p. m. en el Salón. Los niños deben estar inscritos para asistir. Más información sobre la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones en las próximas semanas.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education?

Registration forms available at <https://holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

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 Catechesis)

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF?

Registration forms available at <https://holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>

If you have any questions please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

Adult Education (HC)

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



In Spanish: Fray Sergio Serrano
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/bi-y-espanol-registration>



SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School July 11-15th, 2022
9 am – 12 pm



Ages PK4-Grade 4

Registrations forms available on Holy Cross Website. **Capacity is limited.** Registration Forms due 6/30/2022.

Volunteers needed 5th grade – 99! Volunteer Registration forms available on <https://holycrossover.org/about-us/headlines/6436-vacation-bible-school-2022>

Volunteer forms due 6/10/2022.

You may also contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossover.org or (302) 674-5787 X 122 for forms.

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Registration for Confirmation Preparation (HC - 2023)

Forms to register for Confirmation Preparation 2023 may be found on the parish website under Teaching the Faith, Sacramental Preparation.

Work Camp in Dover (HC)

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

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Registration for 2022-2023 school year is open, registrations are available to all families, and are stilling being accepted. You must register your children each year. Please return to Alicia Poppiti now, so that we can be sure to have enough teachers, books, and space in classrooms.

We are in need of Catechists, Assistants, substitutes and helpers for next year for Religious Education on Sunday mornings, from September 18th until May 7th, 9:40-10:50am. Contact Alicia Poppiti @410-482-8939 or dre@iccmarylodel.org for more information.

Vacation Bible School at Immaculate Conception is from August 1-5, from 6-8:30pm in the Hall. Children must be registered to attend. Registrations are now available. Volunteers needed for VBS, and next year for Religious Education classes. Contact Alicia Poppiti for more information 410-482-8939.



It seems like the automatic go-to as far as conversation goes. No matter who I meet, be it a prospective family, a colleague, who knows? The one topic everyone has some knowledge of and can enter into an easy conversation is the weather. Delaware lies in what is known as the temperate zone, another term for boring weather; and I'm okay with that. But every now and again the upper atmosphere kicks up its heels and has a party, and those below fall victim to the after-party. On that particular Monday, the impending weather, and the minute-by-minute change in forecast was a guaranteed successful conversation starter.

On Friday morning I made arrangements for stand-by bus transport. On Friday night I started saying prayers. Fervent prayers.

A couple of months ago we were contacted by Mrs. Sharon Crossen who was the producer for this year's Children's Theater production of *The Wizard of Oz*. This year was no exception in that we had students with cast roles, and, who doesn't like *The Wizard of Oz*, anyway?? Mrs. Crossen and I chatted about the number of students who would be attending, the grade levels, chaperones, free tickets, and all the good stuff associated with planning a fun field trip. I have always appreciated Mrs. Crossen and her love for Holy Cross, and I told her so. Conversation ended. The production was to be held at the Schwartz Center so there was really no further need for much, outside of informing the faculty and permission slips. So, I was a bit alarmed when I came into the office right at dismissal time only to be informed by Mrs. Arndt that Mrs. Crossen was trying to reach me and was sitting in her car on the parking lot. I went to the door to find her walking rather briskly toward the school building. What in the world?? In just a very few minutes I learned that another school had increased their need for tickets and that there was no longer enough room for HC. The theater had agreed to add another show for us. The question was...would I agree to a showing at noon? Of course!! Not a problem in this world....

On the Friday night before we were to walk down to the Schwartz the word "severe" had been added to the storm forecast for Monday. Prayers and the ominous forecast continued through the weekend. In saying my morning good-byes to my husband on Monday, his parting words were "good luck with your field trip." I knew we had buses. But, I didn't want to be putting young children on a bus in the midst of an ugly thunderstorm replete with hail, and healthy wind gusts. Cancellation was not an option---they had added an extra show for us; and besides I didn't want to have to be the one to stand in front of a bunch of small and adorable faces and tell them we weren't going to be walking down the yellow brick road. Especially since there wasn't a thing shaking outside! No signs of storms, and the unreliable forecast kept waffling back and forth on the time of attack.

It was 11:15. The buses were waiting. It would take two trips, so we had to get moving. Logistics can be such an annoyance. But nonetheless, in short fashion we were all seated in a darkened theater waiting for Dorothy and her cute little dog Toto. I couldn't help but note the irony of it all. Dorothy's adventures and journey to Oz happen as a result of severe weather, and there I sat with my ears peaked for thunder praying that the storm would not come to Dover. I had a plan with the bus driver. Call me at 2. Let me know what's going on. I couldn't wait. I left the theater before the end and noted sunny skies and smooth sailing. The buses were out front. A weather miracle and all my prayers had been answered. Thank you, Jesus.

Weather didn't play a factor at all on the Wednesday following, though. This was the day of our annual May Procession and schoolwide retreat. The May Procession remains a tradition for us as we honor our Blessed Mother Mary throughout the month. While it may be true that this tradition is no longer as popular in other places, it is important that our school children see that we continue to honor her and pray for her constant intercession in these turbulent times. We always use the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. She is bolted onto a platform that rests squarely on the shoulders of four of the tallest eighth graders dressed in their Sunday best. The rest of the eighth grade follows as her court, also dressed in their finest. And then we have the precious second graders. They are dressed in their First Holy Communion dresses and suits and they fall in line behind the eighth grade. We had to use our modified format again this year, so it wasn't until the fifth Glorious Mystery that the rest of the school followed in procession. I want it to go on record that (outside of unforeseen circumstances) that the modified format is one for the history books. We will go back to our old manner of conducting our procession in 2023.

The rest of the day was in various activities to honor our Mother Mary. There were cross-grade activities, a school-wide picnic and visits to the parish hall to see the shadow box rosaries created by our junior high religion classes. They were just lovely. I have to believe that a child without faith could never create what our students created. Their depictions were born out of their personal faith convictions. There isn't any other explanation. The Parish Hall was darkened and soft music played in the background as students walked in line gazing upon each shadow box. I just loved it!

Shouts of joy and cheers of appreciation marked the end of the performance of the choir and band on Tuesday night's evening of music. On Friday they were off to Hershey Park for the *Thrills and Trills* festival. More to come....

At the outset of the month, Mrs. Bifferato baked the JH teachers a banana cake and told them that the month of May was going to be *bananas*. She wasn't wrong.

said, there are those for whom this day is a painful reminder of a personal loss — perhaps, a son, a daughter, a mother, a father, a sister, a brother lost in the service of our nation. In our faith, we are called, indeed commended to pray for those who have gone before us, that they might find rest in Heaven and that we can find peace in that hope given us by Christ. Author Aldous Huxley (who wrote “Brave New World”) noted that, “Every man’s memory is his private literature.” This means that the memories you have — difficult or joyful — help to guide you in life. The most important memory we must always hold is that one imbued into us by faith: that Christ, suffered, died and rose for us that we might have life to the full. That is the memory that will give us hope to get beyond any pain, any loss.

In Imitation of Christ. Thus, as faithful Catholics, we are reminded that we are also called to be faithful, and at the service of our fellow man. While we might not be called to lay down our lives in the same way as those we remember on Memorial Day, we are called, nonetheless, to lay down our lives in the service of God and neighbor, as we remember the sacrifice that Christ made for us. As Christians, every day is a sort of a memorial — we remember what Christ did for us and we remember what Christ has called on us to do in his name, in imitation of Him. At every Mass, we remember these very things in a most profound way. Likewise, in every moment of our own daily lives we are called to be watchful and dutiful in heeding Christ’s call to serve God and neighbor. We are to seek His protection in the battles, not only on the battlefields of wars, but in the battles of daily life as we strive to bring God’s kingdom into this world.

Memorializing. On Memorial Day, though, we focus on those who gave all serving not just God and neighbor, but also God and country, and often on the field of battle; thus, on Memorial Day we memorialize (remember) them. Historically, memorializing those who went before is an important part of our Christian values, and in our Catholic faith. It is our way of remembering our brothers and sisters in Christ, and all of the children of God, and honoring their memory. Scripture tells us “The memory of the just serves as blessing.” (Proverbs 10:7). The memories of our loved ones — and on this Memorial Day, the memories of our fallen — bear this out.

Admonitions. The song “Some Gave All” concludes with an admonition: “Love your country and live with pride / but don’t forget those who died.” A beautiful consideration for all of us on this Memorial Day weekend. Even more profound to recall is the Sacrifice of Christ, who died, that we all might live and have the hope of eternal life and be freed from the slavery to sin. In this regard, the patriotic song, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” speaks well to the Christian call for sacrifice and appreciation of the value of sacrifice, with this admonition:

*In the beauty of the lilies
Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in His bosom
that transfigures you and me.
As he died to make men holy
let us die to make men free
while God is marching on.*

A Final Thought. With this in mind, this Memorial Day let us remember, in a special way, those who died to make us free and who did so much for our nation. But above all, on this Memorial Day — and indeed every day — when thinking about those who died to make us free, let us give praise and thanks to the One who did so much for our salvation and theirs, Jesus Christ! He is the one who gave all to make us free from our slavery to sin and opened the gates of heaven that we might know the greatest freedom of all.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor