



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 2, 2021

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

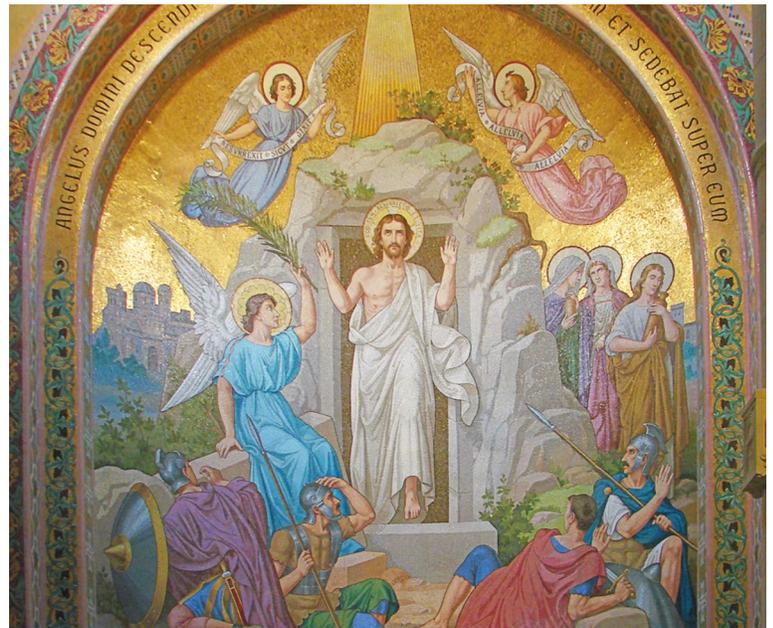
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



5th Sunday of Easter



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

icc

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.

Face masks are to be worn by all who are in the church. It is to be worn covering both the nose and mouth. Thank you for your cooperation.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

April 18, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$25,672	\$27,625	(\$1,935)
YTD	\$1,044,059	\$1,167,975	(\$123,916)
Needs	\$1,864	\$1,550	\$314
Easter	\$16,767	\$22,650	(\$5,883)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending April 18, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$3,852
2nd	\$92

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,

This past weekend some 80 young people made their First Communion, relatedly the past three Pastor's Columns have been on the topic of the Eucharist. A few weeks ago, another equally large number of young people completed their Sacraments of Initiations when, on April 10, 2021, they received the Sacrament of Confirmation. With that in mind, I thought it would be appropriate to use this Pastor's Column to focus on the Church's teachings regarding the Sacrament of Confirmation.

That Rascally Rabbit. The late Country singer Eddie Rabbit — who, by the way, was Brooklyn born — had a hit song some 30 years ago called "Step by Step" — it was a syrupy country-pop number that informed the listener that if you really wanted to properly woo a lady you love, there are three steps that must be undertaken. First step: take her out and treat her like a lady; second step: tell her she's the one you're dreaming of; and the third step: take her in your arms and never let her go. Grabbing my shovel, and digging out from under the schmaltz, I am reminded that full initiation into the Catholic Church likewise has three steps (i.e., three Sacraments of Initiation): Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

What is Confirmation? Confirmation is the Sacrament that is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. Our Catechism states that "by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed."

A \$64,000 Question. Now in its ancient form, and even today in the Eastern Rite of the Church, Confirmation is received immediately after Baptism. However, through ecclesial developments in the West and the desire to clearly express the communion of the young Christian with the Bishop, the Sacrament of Confirmation, in time, was separated from Baptism. This allowed for Sacramental preparation and for the Bishop, as the ordinary minister of the Sacrament, to be able to confirm the large number of Catholics desiring the Sacrament (i.e., he is able to go from parish to parish confirming those receiving the Sacrament). The caveat on this year and last, was that Bishop delegated his authority to minister the Sacrament of Confirmation to his Pastors (and other priests he deemed appropriate to delegate to).

How Many Candles on the Cake? Another question that provides a challenge today is that of age, as it regards Confirmation. Back in the day, Confirmation (which was commonly — and almost universally — received before making Holy Communion) was received at much younger age. In the past 50 years, that has changed in many Dioceses throughout the United States (though several still have Confirmation at age 8-9). So, the question is this: Exactly, how old must a baptized Catholic be before he is able to receive Confirmation? That is the \$64,000 question — and the answer is evasive: It may vary by Diocese in this country from age seven to seventeen, at the discretion of the Bishop, with the minimum age in Roman Rite of the Church being seven (in the Eastern Rite of the Church, an infant is Baptized and Confirmed at the same time; infant confirmation is the norm, there).

Oils Well that Ends Well. Okay, so now that we have the time frame and context in place, what is Confirmation? Confirmation is the Sacrament that is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "by the sacrament of Confirmation, the baptized are more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. Hence they are, as true witnesses of Christ, more strictly obliged to spread and defend the faith by word and deed." Let's get more concrete about the meaning of the Sacrament; and let's do that by looking at the Ritual of Confirmation which helps us to understand the Sacrament more clearly.

Sealing the Deal. In the pivotal moment of the Sacrament of Confirmation, the Bishop anoints the crown of the head of the one to be confirmed with Sacred Chrism (a consecrated holy oil). As he anoints the candidate, he says, "*Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.*" Okay, let's flashback to Baptism: an infant who was baptized was likewise anointed on the head with the same Sacred Chrism. Think of the application of this holy oil in terms of paint: When you have to paint a wall, you first put on a primer coat, then you put on the second coat to seal it in. In Baptism, a child receives the Holy Spirit and the Chrism is applied for the first time; in Confirmation, a second-coat (if you will allow the analogy) of Chrism is applied — sealing and completing the baptismal graces. In some manner it may be observed that Confirmation is a form of completing the Sacrament of Baptism. And like Baptism, Confirmation is received only once, as it imprints an indelible spiritual mark on the soul, marking that per-

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
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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
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

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.

GOLF FOR LIFE!!

New Day Pregnancy Care Center is having a golf tournament to raise money to protect the lives of babies and to give hope to the mothers of unplanned pregnancies. You can help by forming a team of 4 players for \$75.00 a person or \$300.00 a team. Or you can sponsor a hole for \$150.00 or more! The scramble tournament is on May 22 with a shotgun start at 12:00. If you have any questions, please contact Cristina Mattes at cdmattes@gmail.com or call 302-222-0372. Thank you for helping!

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to the Catholic Forum radio program/podcast each week. Next Saturday, May 8th, Mr. Paul Senz will discuss his book, "Fatima: 100 Questions and Answers about the Marian Apparitions." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640, or listen online anytime at www.cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Catholicforum.

READINGS FOR MAY 9

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

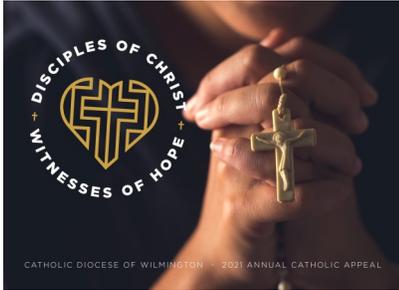
FIRST READING: ACTS 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

SECOND READING: 1 JOHN 4:7-10

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:9-17

2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL – DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, WITNESSES OF HOPE

Many thanks to those who have responded to the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal; your generosity is deeply appreciated. If you have not yet participated you can contribute to the



Appeal by using the pledge card and return envelope mailed to your home, by accessing the Appeal website at www.cdown.org/annualcatholicappeal and clicking “How to Donate” or by completing a pledge card located on the tables in the church or Gathering Space. It is never too late to help someone in need.

The goal for Holy Cross is \$215,000. The goal for Immaculate Conception is \$25,000. We need help from each and everyone of you in order to help us reach our goal for the Annual Appeal. Please prayerfully considering sending in your pledge or donation today.

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. Due to the COVID restrictions.

PRO-LIFE INFORMATION

Are you pro-life and searching for ways to make a positive impact? Get connected with others who are making a difference. Currently we are conducting a 40 Days for Life vigil through Palm Sunday in Dover at Planned Parenthood. We will train. Contact Donna Latteri 862-266-1099.

Abortion may be legal, but the Sixth Commandment says it is MURDER! Mom’s House of Dover helps unwed mothers complete their education.

MASS INTENTIONS

MAY

3 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Rosalie Chordas Boryszewski
4 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Christie Lane
5 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Digna Lacey
6 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Judy Rosselli
ICC 6 pm	For the People
7 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Melissa Moore
8 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	James Canalichio
HC 5 pm	Alberta Nilan
9 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Mildred Byers
ICC 8:30 am	Ed & Delores McGowan
HC 9:30 am	Robert Cassidy
ICC 11 am	James Ward
HC 11:30 am	Mother’s Day Novena
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION

DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

VOCATIONS

As a lay person, you can serve the Church in several ways.

Your vocation could include service at the diocesan or parish level, as a director of religious education, as a church musician, or as an administrator of social services. If you want to do volunteer work, such service is usually for a year or two in a mission of the Church either in the United States or overseas.

In addition, the Catholic Church has restored the order of permanent diaconate. A deacon is a man 35 years of age or older, married or single, who serves the people of God in the ordained diaconal ministry. His ministry is liturgical (preaching), sacramental (except Eucharist and Penance), pastoral and social.

To find out more about all three types of service, contact the diocesan chancery in charge of each type of service. Many opportunities are available.

Pray for vocations.

faith in action

MASS MINISTERS

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 May 2021

At Holy Cross:

5 pm Mass

May 1 Judi Coffield
 May 8 Lori Christiansen
 May 15 Dennis Dixon
 May 22 Donna Kilby
 May 29 Fran Urick

7:30 am Mass

May 2 John Davis
 May 9 Christina Cuffee
 May 16 Edie Outten
 May 23 Rose Pritchett
 May 29 John Davis

9:30 am Mass

May 2 Mary Louise Sossich
 May 9 Chris Petka
 May 16 Mary Sherlock
 May 23 Tamra Baurys
 May 30 Sher Crossen

At Immaculate Conception

8:30 am Mass

May 2 Diane Smith
 May 9 Theresa Thompson
 May 16 Karen Cairns
 May 23 Bill Thompson
 May 30 Gerry Godfrey

11 am Mass

May 2 Laura Schlopitz
 May 9 Donna King
 May 16 Laura Schlopitz
 May 23 Donna King
 May 30 Laura Schlopitz

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at belt@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@iccmaydel.org Thank you.

K OF C MOTHER'S DAY TREAT

The Knights of Columbus will provide donuts/pastries to all mom's on Mother's Day, May 9, in the lobby of Holy Cross School. It will be free for mom's but others will be charged \$5. It will be a take and go as you are leaving the church.

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 ahead of time and we will get your copy and have it for you to pick up.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"Screens" (TV, computers, cell phones...) can give us a lot of helpful information. BUT, they can also crowd out relationship time. Although this is often directed to children, it starts with you and your beloved. Can you spend a day without using a screen this week? What will you substitute?

PARENTING POINTERS

If your child is old enough for school, they've probably spent a lot of class time on computer screens during Covid. Weather permitting, offer them a Nature Break this week - or at least some indoor art, craft, or board game alternatives.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

Pre-need planning. Still trying to decide on what to do with this year's income tax refunds or your COVID stimulus funds? During our lifetime we spend a lot of time planning and preparing for future events, such as weddings, vacations, college for the kids, retirement, etc. It's easy to put off planning for the day when the Lord will call you home. Planning for the inevitable and securing space in our cemetery is a wonderful gift for the whole family. When that day does come, with all its emotional trauma, sparing your spouse and children those difficult decisions is a blessing. Contact Len Dornberger at the parish office for a no obligation discussion.

DOVER INTERFAITH MISSION

Anyone interested in providing a dinner for the DIMH Men's shelter can call 302-736-3600. The shelter is located across from the Salvation Army building.

The shelter will have to move to a new location at the end of the year. They are also asking for anyone interested in donating money to help build/redo a new building to house the shelter. They would like to have a permanent location in the future. If interested in donating, you can send your donation to DIMH Shelter, 684 Forrest Street, Dover, DE 19904.

- Si todavía no ha contribuido a la Campaña Católica Anual 2021 del Señor Obispo “Discípulos de Cristo, Testigos de Esperanza” por favor tome un sobre y haga su donativo sacrificial. Esta campaña ayuda a muchos ministerios en toda nuestra Diócesis. Les pedimos que oren para que esta campaña sea un éxito.
- Las inscripciones para las clases de Educación Religiosa del próximo año escolar 2021-2022 están abiertas
- Las aplicaciones para los que van a recibir los Sacramentos pueden ir a la página cibernética de la parroquia y bajar la aplicación completarlo a tiempo y entregarlo en la oficina de Educación Religiosa.
- PREPARACIÓN SACRAMENTAL: Los Sacramentos de la Reconciliación y la Primera Comunión, generalmente se reciben cuando el niño está en el segundo grado. Es responsabilidad de los padres inscribir a sus hijos a la edad adecuada para la Educación Religiosa a menos que su hijo este asistiendo a una escuela católica.
- Canon 914: Es responsabilidad, en primer lugar, de los padres y de quienes ocupan el lugar de los padres, así como del párroco, velar por que los hijos que han alcanzado el uso de la razón estén correctamente preparados y alimentados por el alimento divino, lo antes posible, precedida de la confesión sacramental; Corresponde también al párroco vigilar que no vengan al Santo Banquete niños que no hayan alcanzado el uso de la razón o que juzgue no estén suficientemente preparados.
- Recuerde que todavía tenemos que seguir las medidas de precauciones de guardar la distancia, usar mascarillas, lavarnos las manos con frecuencia y no aglomerarnos.
- 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.
- Queremos extender nuestras más sinceras condolencias a la familia Gabriel Reynoso por el reciente fallecimiento de Javier Obdulio Gabriel Reynoso miembro del coro Misioneros de la Fe. Paz a su alma y consuelo a su familia.

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

**** Están abiertas las inscripciones para el próximo año, 2021-2022. Por favor devuelva las aplicaciones lo antes posible para que podamos ordenar libros y tomar decisiones de ubicación para el año escolar. ****

Se están recopilando evaluaciones para las 4 unidades. Por favor, llévelos a la Sra. Alicia Poppiti para obtener su crédito para este año,, Directora de Educación Religiosa al 410-482-8939 o dre@iccmmarydel.org

Grupo 2- grados 1, 2, en el salón, 4,5 en los salones del Basement (sótano) y RICA en el salón de computadoras- presencial 28 de marzo.
Grupo 2- Próximas Sesiones: 2 de Mayo

Esta es el último fin de semana de clases de Educación Religiosa, hasta septiembre.

Felicitaciones a los adolescentes y jóvenes adultos que fueron sellados con los dones del Espíritu Santo el pasado 10 de abril por medio del Sacramento de la Confirmación. Continuaremos orando por ustedes en su jornada de Fe .

Felicitaciones a los que recibieron a Jesús por primera vez en el Sacramento de la Primera Comunión el sábado 24 de abril. Que el Señor los siga bendiciendo.

¡NECESITAMOS CATEQUISTAS PARA EL PROXIMO AÑO!

Si está interesado comuníquese con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti, Directora de Educación Religiosa al 410-482-8939 o dre@iccmmarydel.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class

Next class May 2—LAST CLASS

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

May 9, 2021 Cancelled

REGISTRATION FOR 2021/22 REL. ED

2021-2022 Religious Education Class registration forms now available on line 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.

CONGRATULATIONS (HC)

Blessings and congratulations to all our youth, who received First Communion on April 24th. Also continue to pray for those who will be making theirs on May 1st. We pray that God continues to be a presence in their lives and may they be blessed in the years ahead.

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP (HC)

For teens 8th grade through college, we are traveling to North Haledon, NJ July 18 to July 23 to serve residents there. MUST know by May 1 if you are interested in attending. Please email Mrs. Darling at ldarling@holycrossover.org.

KEYCHAINS (HC)

For our teens beginning to drive this year, or those from last year who were not able to receive a key chain, please let Mrs. Darling know you would like one. ldarling@holycrossover.org

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP (HC)

June 28 to July 1 we will be hosting teens from around the East Coast to assist the elderly and those who could use an extra pair of hands with yard work, painting, minor repairs, window washing, etc. We would prefer to do outside work if possible this year - please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossover.org if we may be of assistance to you or someone you know.

REGISTRATION FOR CONFIRMATION PREPARATION (HC)

Forms to register for Confirmation 2022 Preparation for all high school students not confirmed may be found on the parish website under Teaching the Faith, Sacramental Preparation, Confirmation.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

***Registration for next year, 2021-2022 has begun. Please return forms as soon as possible so that we are able to order books, and make placement decisions for the school year. A table will be set up after Masses in front of the hall for registration.

Assessments are being collected for all 4 units. Please get them to Mrs. Alicia Poppiti All student assessments that are in their unit packs are due to Mrs. Poppiti when unit is finished. Please hand in for credit for this year.

Group 2 - grades 1, 2, in the hall, 4, 5 in the basement and RCIA in the computer center- on site May 2nd This is the last weekend for RE until September Alicia Poppiti, Director of Religious Education at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmaryladel.org

ICC: Congratulations to our Candidates for Confirmation that received the Sacrament on April 10th: Christiano, Nelvin, Erlin, Kevin, Julian, Ricardo, Itzel, Delaney, Adolfo and Karen, Elsa, Arnoldo, Veronica, Omer, Sergio and Elvira. God Bless you all.

ICC: Congratulations to Ashly, John Carlos and Marilyn on the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

CONGRATULATIONS (ICC)

God Bless our First Communicants: Adriana, Andy, Aylin, Dany, Damariz, Esvin, Elizabeth, Eyli, Heidy, Jason, Johnny, Jose, Keiron, Marlin, Melani Nahomy, Otto and Riquelme

WE NEED YOU (ICC)

Catechists needed for next year! Please inquire with Mrs. Poppiti as soon as possible. If you are wondering, then this may be your calling.

CROSSROADS 4 CHRIST YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

Join Crossroads 4 Christ for their Second Annual Young Adult Conference from May 17th – 23rd! This years' theme "Into the Deep" promises to bring you deeper into the abundant life Jesus offers us, a life lived with Him and in His Church. Throughout the week you will be invited to listen to local and national speakers like Chris Stefanick, Immaculee Ilibagiza, and Sr. Marie Veritas of the Sisters of Life give inspiring online talks and virtual Q&As. You will also be able to join the C4C community for select in-person events (which will also be live-streamed) such as a Faith on Tap and a Pentecost Vigil with Archbishop Blair of the Archdiocese of Hartford! FREE registration is open to all young adults, ages 18-39, and anyone interested in learning about young adult evangelization and the abundant life Jesus offers us. For registration and more information visit www.c4conference.org.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord,
the goodness of the Lord.

First times. When you think about all the “first times” in life, recall the excitement associated with the “first time,” the preparation, and the wait can sometimes seem unbearable. A prime example might be the memory you have of driving a car for the “first time.” Placing that key in the ignition; listening to the engine turn over; putting the car in gear; and realizing the awesome responsibility that you as a driver have been entrusted with is almost overwhelming.

Harper A. Abigail B. Joseph C. Thomas E. Miguel F.
Andrew G. Andrew K.. Lauren M. Jackson M. Eliana O.
Julian P. Luna P. Graziella P. Paul R.

Perhaps it was the first bike....maybe you were just a little tot. Maybe it was a birthday, or a Christmas gift. But the first bike is never forgotten. It was a Christmas gift. My personal recollection is of my father holding onto the back of the white bicycle seat as I swerved and veered all over the sidewalk. My feet kept slipping off the pedals, but with all the determination in the world, I broke away from my father’s grasp and promptly drove into the side of a vehicle belonging to a neighbor. The first time; my shiny new red and white English Racer was a little more than I was apparently ready for.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, the goodness of the Lord. Praise shall be ever on my lips.

Or maybe it was the first day of your first job. Maybe it was the first job you ever had. Even if it was just serving up burgers and fries, there is that certain and most definite “I can’t wait” that precedes the very first day on the job.

Sydney S. (2B) Addison S. Dominic T. Moira B. Thed C.
Victoria F. Frank G. Khian Carl G.
Braden H. Scarlet K.

“Today, boys and girls, is the most important and happiest day of your lives.” This might be a paraphrase, but the message is essentially the same. Both Father Mano and Father Lentini spoke to our precious second graders as they waited in excited anticipation of receiving the Body of Christ for the first time. Keeping with Roman Catholic tradition, our sweet little ones were adorned in their finest.

It’s always a little nerve-wracking as the girls ascend the three steps onto the altar to receive the Body of Christ from the priest for the first time ever. Adorned in white, often times the hem of the wedding dress in miniature catches underneath the tip of the shoe, frequently a shoe with a bit of a heel. They have so much to remember; they have to bow before walking up the stairs, one step at

a time, with their hands in prayer position. They have to bless themselves, properly. In the name of the Father, Son, (go to the left) and the Holy Spirit (then to the right) They have to receive the Host in their properly placed hands, carefully place the Body of Christ in the mouth, bless themselves, bow, and turn to leave the altar, carefully negotiating those stairs. Girls, don’t forget to pick up the hem of your dress!!

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord, the goodness of the Lord. Praise shall be ever on my lips.

So, all of this might beg the question....Why?? Why the fancy attire? Why the big deal made over the First Holy Communion? Why all the time devoted to the preparation?

The First Holy Communion is a very important sacrament every Catholic child must go through. After their Baptism into the Catholic faith, Holy Communion is the next sacrament of initiation. During this sacrament, it is the first time a child can partake in the Holy Eucharist, the most important part of the Holy Mass for Catholics. The First Communion is considered as one of the most important and holiest sacraments for a Catholic child.

- The Souls Become The Body Of Christ
The main reason why girls wear white First Communion dresses and the boys wear presentable suits is because it is a holy and joyous occasion that celebrates the souls becoming the Body of Christ. It is in this holy sacrament that children are more aware of their faith.

Although during baptism Catholic children are welcomed into the community, it is during their First Holy Communion where they are making a conscious journey in faith and love of Christ. Just like in the western society and Catholic culture, a bride wears a white dress to her wedding; First Holy Communion dresses are also white as they both symbolize purity of the soul.

- The First Communion of a child is essentially one of the first steps they take during their early Catholic years. It is a way for them to continue living under the guidance of their beliefs and will further cement their Catholic faith in Christ, the Eucharist, and the Church.

Jordyn M. Marilyn M. Alex P. Paisley P. Vincent P.
Michael R. Sydney S.(2A) Dylan W.

On behalf of the entire HCS community, a hearty congratulations to all of our second graders. May their second, third.....fortieth, eightieth,and every weekly reception of the Eucharist for the rest of their lives be as memorable as their first time!

Taste and see.....

son as eternally belonging to Christ.

What’s the matter? What is necessary for the reception of the Sacrament of Confirmation? Catholic teaching tells us that Sacraments require specific “form and matter” to be present in order that they be in fact con-fected. In order for the Sacrament of Confirmation to be properly con-fected, the “matter” that must be present is a baptized un-confirmed person and Sacred Chrism; the “form” of the Sacrament is the proper minister say-ing the words *Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit* as the Sacred Chrism is applied.

That’s the Spirit! What are the effects of this Sacrament of Confirmation? Upon being Confirmed, the Holy Spirit goes “all Santa” on a person; he drops off a whole bunch of presents (gifts)! Known as the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, these are traditionally identified as:

- Wisdom - allows one to comprehend, more fully, the truths of faith
- Understanding - allows one to appreciate creation in relation to God
- Counsel –allows one to make right judgment (i.e., when you judge, do it well and rightly).
- Fortitude – gives moral courage to do God’s will, even in the face of adversity
- Knowledge – gives awareness and comprehension of God
- Piety – gives awareness of the need to worship and love God, with reverence
- Fear of the Lord – allows us to be aware that God is always aware of all that we do

Grand Opening! Now, like all presents, we have to open them and use them to get their benefits. If you treat these gifts of the Holy Spirit like a 10-year old treats the gifts of a pair of socks at Christmas (e.g., toss them aside and look for something else in the gift pile), then you may fail to get the benefit of what God has given you. If you do put these sacred gifts to use, they will bear fruit (that is, they will show forth in your life). The Church dubs these benefits as the “Fruits of the Holy Spirit,” and they are: Charity (love of neigh-bor), Joy (happiness in God), Peace (serenity in relations between you and God), Patience (ability to wait and hope), Benignity (kindness towards others), Goodness (likeness to God), Long-suffering (patient suffer-ing), Mildness (a sense of temperance and calm), Faith (believing and living one’s belief in God), Modesty (humility in various aspects of life), Continen- (self-control), and Chastity (resistance against lustful de-sires).

And with that brief overview of Confirmation, I would ask you to pray for our young people who have re-cently received this Sacrament; may they be strengthened their faith and helped to always bear good wit-ness to the name Christian.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor

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