



# 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



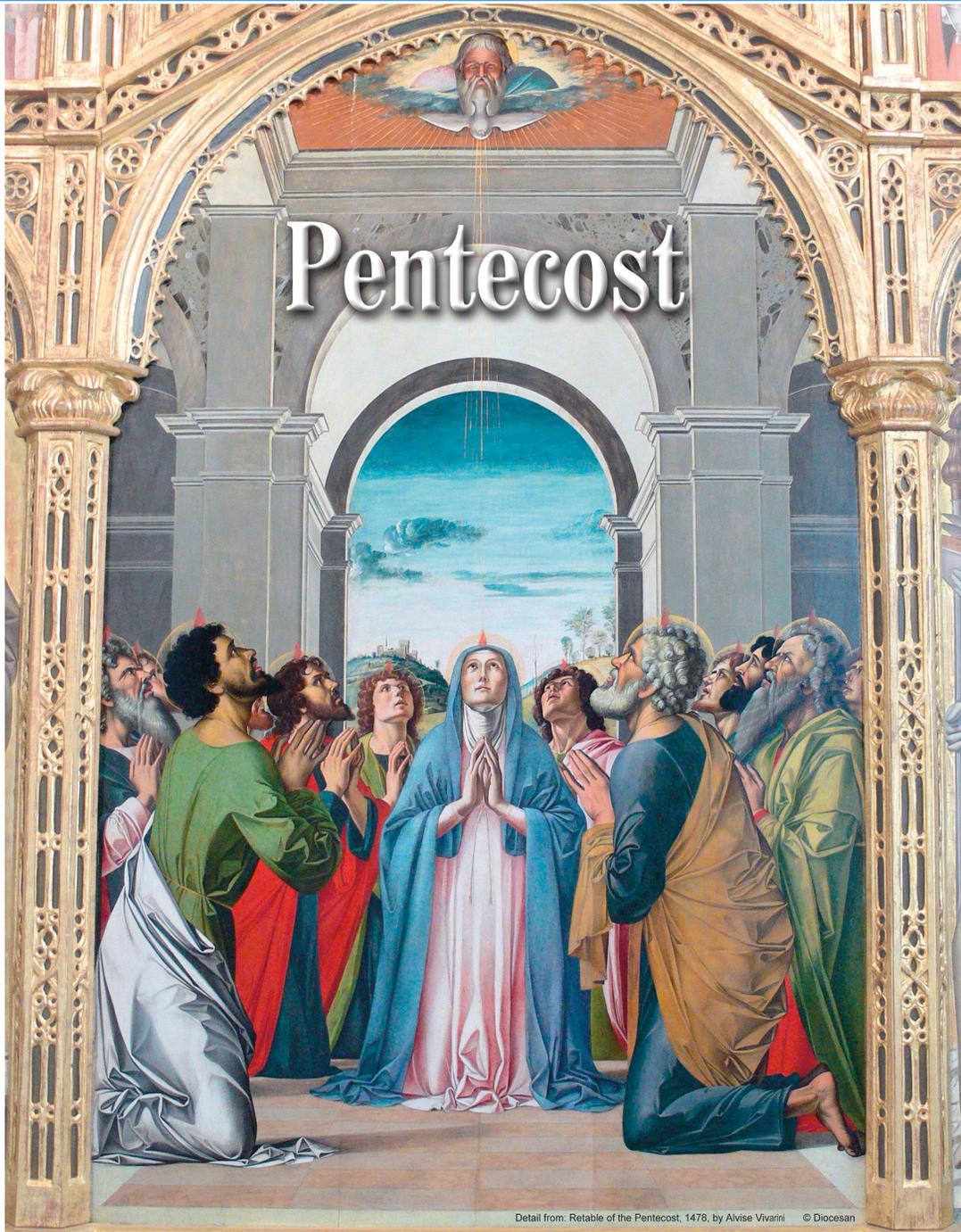
# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

May 31, 2020

Pentecost

holy cross

icc



Detail from: Retable of the Pentecost, 1478, by Alvise Vivarini © Diocesan

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

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

**Sacrament of Baptism.** Call the parish 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.

Check out our websites

[holycrossover.org](http://holycrossover.org)  
[iccmaryl.org](http://iccmaryl.org)

- *Read daily reflections by our clergy*
- *Watch Masses from various sources*
- *Find spiritual readings*
- *Read about our latest updates*

Holy Cross Church will be unlocked and available for private prayer beginning Monday, June 1. The doors will be open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Friday, 7 am to Noon on Saturdays, and 9 am to 7 pm on Sundays.

Immaculate Conception will be open daily 9 am to 7 pm, except on Saturday when it will close at Noon.

While we are not allowing anyone into the parish offices, you can call and leave messages and we will get back to you; or, you can email us.

At this time, there are no baptisms or gatherings of any type. Funerals will be graveside only and limited to 10 persons including clergy.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) ending May 17

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$19,438	\$28,200	(\$8,762)
YTD	\$1,242,707	\$1,304,800	(\$62,093)
Needs	\$1,320	\$1,586	(\$266)

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending May 17

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$1,710
Second	\$95

Thank you for your offering. It is with your continued support and the sharing of your time and talent that the ministries, programs, and activities of Holy Cross and ICC are made possible.

*"Whatever you give to the Lord, He will return to you a hundred fold."*

**Please continue to mail in your contributions during this time that we cannot gather together at Mass. 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. We will call you back. Thank you for your continued support.**

Dear Parishioners,

**Regarding the Resumption of Masses at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes**

I am looking forward to the resumption of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass here at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception. In doing so, I have some hurdles I have to clear, and am working to do so. Several people have said to me things like, "I went to church in... (fill in the name of the state)... here's what they did and I want to share it." Much like Coronavirus germs, I would prefer not to have those things shared at this moment.

**Regulatory Matters.** Right now I am dealing with conflicting regulations, from Delaware and Maryland, as well as overlaying of Diocesan regulations. I have to put all of these regulations in a blender, and produce a tasty regulation-smoothie that satisfies the basic spirit of the regulations, and does not turn our Church into a regulatory police state. I want our Church to be a Church. This week's column is not the place for me to add commentary about the heavy hand of State government in the practice of our faith, but I will be addressing that issue in the weeks to come. But, right now my concern is to get our Church opened in an appropriate manner, as soon as possible.

**Challenges.** The greatest challenge I have is the one of crowd control; our attendance is fairly limited at both Churches. We have to operate at 30% (less than 1/3) capacity, and try to maintain social distancing. In looking at the small-size of Immaculate Conception Church, and the large crowds at Holy Cross, I fear both places being overwhelmed on a Sunday beyond the current capacity limits set by the Diocese (30%). To that end, as we re-open, I am planning to do something different. Some will like it, some won't. For both, I would advise, that this change is not permanent but temporary to work our way back to Sunday Mass.

**Obligation for Sunday Mass remains lifted.** The assistance that I have making this transition plan work is that the Bishop has lifted the obligation for Sunday Mass attendance. Thus no one has the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday. On the other side of this issue is the concern that people are hungry for the Eucharist, and I want to give them many options to come, attend Mass, worship God, and receive the Blessed Sacrament. This way everyone can

make a weekly visit to the Church and not have to be concerned about large crowds or being turned away.

**Starting Masses.** So, starting on June 8, between Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception, there will be 17 masses a week, but no Sunday Masses. Sunday Masses will continue to be streamed/broadcast online. The Masses we will have will be on weekdays and Saturday mornings. This spread of 17 Masses will allow the people of the Parish different days and times to attend Mass during a given week, receive the Eucharist, and it will spread the crowd out over a six day period. Many people have expressed to me their trepidation at coming back to Sunday Mass, due to potential crowds; this addresses that while we are in this period of transition back to Sunday Masses. The Masses we scheduled will be at times that serve our retired parishioners and our working parishioners.

**Temporary Schedule.** This temporary schedule will allow time for us to get a handle on the crowd, (i.e., the attendance), total numbers, and plan accordingly. I would also expect that later in the month of June, and certainly by July, many of these regulations will fall by the wayside, and there will be more room to return to normal operations (or at least closer-to-normal). But for a few weeks, I think this is the way forward for our faithful at both parish.

**Weekday masses will be at Holy Cross as follows:**

- Monday - 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday - 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday - 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday - 12:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Friday - 12:00 p.m. (English) and 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)
- Saturday Morning - 9:00 a.m.

**Weekday Masses will be at Immaculate Conception as follows:**

- Monday - 6:00 p.m. (English)
- Tuesday - 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)
- Wednesday - 6:00 p.m. (English)
- Thursday - 6:00 p.m. (Spanish)
- Friday - 6:00 p.m. (English)
- Saturday - 9:00 a.m. (Spanish)

*(Continued on page 4)*

## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Idongesit Etim	Parochial Vicar
Rev. Mano Salla	Parochial Vicar

## HC CLERGY

Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Mr. Philip Belt	Deacon
Mr. John Harvey	Deacon
Mr. Robert McMullen	Deacon
Mr. Scott Peterson	Deacon
Mr. Vincent Pisano	Deacon

## ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
Mr. James Tormey	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

## ST. THOMAS MORE ACADEMY

Catholic Education Grades 9 to 12  
302 697 8100  
saintmore.org

Rachael Casey Principal

## MAILING ADDRESS

*St. Thomas More Academy*  
133 Thomas More Dr.  
Magnolia, DE 19962

### For Confessions (for Holy Cross)

Tuesday, June 9 - 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.  
Thursday, June 11 - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 13 - 9:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Saturday, June 20 - 9:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
(other times will be announced as needed)

### For Confessions (for Immaculate Conception)

Friday, June 5 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 6 - 9:00 p.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Basic Guidelines.** Those coming into the Church for private prayer, or for Mass, should be advised that the basic regulations will be very similar for Mass. Also note that disinfectant wipes will be available for sanitizing your seat as you arrive or leave, if needed. We also ask that you bring your own hand sanitizer and/or wipes with you in case we run out. Basic guidelines — which will also be posted in the Church:

- Those who are 65-or-older, and have compromised health (especially respiratory problems, diabetes, etc.) are advised to stay away for the moment.
- A face covering is to be worn (not on children under 2, not required for children under 13)
- Social distance between you and others remain at six feet, with families and those who share a home being exempt from that requirement (i.e., they can sit together).
- Observe any pew demarcations for sitting
- At the beginning and end of Mass there should be no gathering in the narthex of the Church or in the parking lot.

### Regarding reception of Holy Communion:

Social distance applies on the communion line (thus, keep two pew lengths between you and the person in front of you).

If you receive Communion on the hand, line up as per regular, just keeping social distance. Keep your mask on. After you say "Amen," then step forward to the Priest and receive the host. Then step away (off to the side), lower your mask receive the host, raise your mask again.

If you receive Communion on the tongue, please go to the end of the line. When the first

person to receive on the tongue presents himself to the priest, all of those receiving on the tongue will follow the priest over to the statue of Mary (where there will be a washing station for the priest), and they will lower their mask to receive and then raise it back up.

**Concluding Thoughts.** I know this won't make everyone happy, but I'm ask you to abide with me through this unusual circumstance. I also know, as I said in the last bulletin, for some, no precautions will be enough to make them feel comfortable gathering in the Church, and for others, every precaution will be an intrusion on their faith — for people in those two groups, you may want to stay back, as I don't want you being fearful or annoyed in Church. I want you coming here to worship God and focusing on the Lord.

I pray that this temporary situation is something that very soon will be only seen in our rear-view mirror as we speed away from it. I continue to pray for you and ask you to do likewise for me. I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Rev. James Lentini  
Pastor

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Also, as a safety precaution, during the time that the Church is opened for private prayer, the bathrooms will not be accessible. However, when Masses are being celebrated, and there are more people in the Church, it is our plan to keep the bathrooms open during those times. In any event, we would very strongly commend you to, please, use the bathroom at home before coming to the Church.



Watch the taped Masse each weekend at Holy Cross and/or Immaculate Conception by one of our priests. You can also watch the website for the weekend Masses being streamed live by the Diocese.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**JUNE**

<b>1 MONDAY</b>	
HC 6:30 am	Joe & Shirley Lascano (LI)
HC 8 am	Jean & Joseph Mazza
<b>2 TUESDAY</b>	
HC 6:30 am	Eugene Belt
HC 8 am	Ward Hitch
<b>3 WEDNESDAY</b>	
HC 6:30 am	Theresa Thorstensen
HC 8:15 am	
<b>4 THURSDAY</b>	
HC 6:30 am	Eileen Martin
HC 8 am	
ICC 7 pm	For the People
<b>5 FRIDAY</b>	
HC 6:30 am	Geraldine Rose
HC 8 am	Geraldine Rose
<b>6 SATURDAY</b>	
HC 8 am	Ernestina Lumpris
HC 5 pm	Nicholas Pedano
<b>7 SUNDAY</b>	
HC 7:30 am	Matthew & Mary Seben
ICC 8:30 am	Michael Comegys
HC 9:15 am	Rev. Fr. Conan E. Feigh, OSB
ICC 11:00 am	Marge Messner
HC 11 am	Joseph P. DeAngelis, Jr.
HC 1 pm	For the People
ICC 1 pm	Luis Cruz
HC 6 pm	

(LI = LIVING INTENTION)

**MASS INTENTIONS**

While there are no public Masses at this time, our priests will be saying private Masses each day. During their private Masses, the intentions of the day will be remembered. On the weekend, the priests will be saying several private Masses to cover all of the intentions that occur on the weekend. Your loved ones will still be remembered in prayer.

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Does your marriage sometimes feel like each of you speaking but not understanding each other? Take time today to really listen to and understand each other.

## PARENTING POINTERS

Discuss the many different jobs that people in your family do? Which is the most important? Wrong question - since each person has different talents and time. Is it time to reassess who does which jobs?

## MEN OF HOLY CROSS (NEW HIGH TECH VIDEO-CONFERENCE MEETINGS)

Are you a male between the ages of 18 and 99? Do you wish to learn more about prayer, faith and your vocation? Do you want to become a stronger father, husband or son? Do you want to build lasting friendships with catholic faith minded men? Join the Men of Holy Cross for our weekly meetings: Since the Corona virus and social distancing we have been meeting on Zoom Teleconference and it has been working out great. Just type in or click on the following link and it will automatically guide you through the Zoom Meeting application, set up and joining the meeting. <https://zoom.us/j/930861480> Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM for prayer, gospel reflections, Church teachings and timely discussions. If you want more information please contact us at 302-313-6935 or email [MenOfHolyCross@gmail.com](mailto:MenOfHolyCross@gmail.com).

## RESOURCES IN TIMES OF PANDEMIC

A new webpage has been created on the diocesan website: [cdodw.org](http://cdodw.org): Resources in Times of Pandemic. It is a clearinghouse for resources for:

- Joining Masses On-line
- Prayer Resources
- Spiritual Formation
- Resources for Young Adults
- Resources for Young People
- Resources for Children
- Supporting Parents and Families
- Recursos en Español
- About COVID-19
- Best Practices
- Mental Health
- Resources for Pastoral Ministers



## PRO LIFE CORNER

- During this difficult time of Coronavirus Disease, abortion procedures continue throughout the U.S. and in Dover. Abortion providers such as Planned Parenthood are classified as ESSENTIAL SERVICES! You can save lives in Dover by praying with Holy Cross and other local church groups on Friday mornings from 9 AM – noon at Planned Parenthood of Dover or by praying at home. If you pray at Planned Parenthood, please follow Governor Carney’s Social Distancing Guidelines.
- Also, remember to pray for the most vulnerable and seniors who are most susceptible to the Coronavirus

## WHEN THIS IS OVER

When this is over,  
 may we never again take for granted  
 a handshake with a stranger  
 conversations with neighbors  
 a crowded theater  
 Friday night out  
 the taste of Communion  
 a routine checkup  
 the school rush each morning  
 coffee with a friend  
 the stadium roaring  
 each deep breath  
 a boring Tuesday  
 life itself.

When this ends,  
 may we find that we have become  
 more like the people we wanted to be,  
 we were called to be,  
 we hoped to be.  
 And may we stay that way – better for each  
 other because of the worst.

*Laura Kelly Fanucci*

## READINGS FOR JUNE 7 HOLY TRINITY

FIRST READING: EXODUS 34:4-6, 8-9

God reveals the divine life to Moses as one of mercy and compassion.

SECOND READING: 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13

Paul ends his second letter to the Corinthians with a beautiful Trinitarian blessing.

GOSPEL: JOHN 3:16-18

Jesus reveals the Trinity to us through his life, death and resurrection.

## SAMARITAN FOOD NEEDS (HC)

The Samaritan Food Pantry is collecting items to help with the great demands being placed on them during this crisis.



Please leave perishable items in the freezer by the Samaritan pick up door and non perishable items can be left there also. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Samaritans also appreciate any monetary donations that have been sent in. Thank you for thinking of your needy brothers and sisters. V

## VOCATIONS

**What is a Sister?** A Sister lives in a religious community that follows a constantly renewed tradition, patterned on the life and teaching of the founder of the community. The work she generally does will depend upon the ministries of that community as influenced by the needs of the Church and its people — for example: teaching, social work, administration, nursing, peace and justice ministry, etc.

Does the lifestyle of a Sister sound attractive to you? Contact the diocesan vocation office for more information.

*Serra for priestly and religious vocations*

DESDE LA OFICINA DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO DE SANTA CRUZ-DOVER Y LA INMACULADA CONCEPCION- MARYDEL

UN MENSAJE DE OPTIMISMO Y ESPERANZA EN MEDIO DE LA PANDEMIA

Hola mis hermanos y hermanas,

Los extraño mucho y desde mi hogar, deseo enviarles un saludo lleno de alegría y esperanza en estos tiempos de incertidumbre en la que estamos viviendo, pero recordarles que a pesar de todo esta pesadilla que estamos viviendo, tenemos y debemos darle gracias a Dios porque estamos vivos, si es verdad que estamos aislados, muchos sin trabajo, muchos con ansiedad, pero no estamos en un hospital luchando por la vida, si es una realidad, estamos viviendo momentos sin precedentes en medio de una pandemia, que jamás nos hubiéramos imaginado, pero ánimo, no perdamos las esperanzas, ni permitir que el miedo invade nuestro ser, porque el Señor resucitado nos promete estar con nosotros todos los días de nuestras vidas hasta el final de los tiempos.

Pongamos nuestra esperanza en el Cristo resucitado, que el Señor nos de fuerza en medio de la tormenta y que en este tiempo de estar en casa, sea un tiempo de gracia para ayudarnos a forja hogares santos, para que este aislamiento sea un tiempo para ayudarnos a crecer en la fe, nos permita ser mejores personas, mejores esposos(as), mejores padres de familia y sobre todo a ser mejores cristianos.

Invitemos a Jesús a compartir con nosotros en nuestra Eucaristía doméstica y pidámosle que se quede con nosotros, en nuestros corazones, en nuestros hogares y que nos enseñe a descubrir su gracia en medio del aislamiento, de la zozobra en medio de la pandemia.

Que este Tiempo Pascual recordemos que la muerte fue vencida por Cristo y así poder mirar hacia un Pentecostés lleno de esperanza, con más ganas, con más ánimo, con más fe, y con más amor de llevar el Evangelio a los que no saben o no conocen la Buena Nueva

del Resucitado.

De una manera muy especial y porque los quiero ver pronto les pido varias cosas:

1. Sigamos las regulaciones gubernamentales de lavarse las manos con jabón por 20 segundos y frecuentemente, usando mascarillas y observar el distanciamiento social.
2. No abandonen a los más vulnerables de nuestra sociedad los ancianos, los que se encuentran en centro de detención migratoria a los que están solos y abandonados, una oración, una llamada telefónica, un mensaje de texto a los miembros de nuestra comunidad para darles ánimo y esperanza.
3. Oremos por todos los enfermos del coronavirus, a aquellos de luto por la muerte de uno o varios seres queridos y al personal médico y voluntarios que luchan contra el Covid-19.
4. Oremos por nuestros sacerdotes para que el Señor los mantenga sanos y fuera de peligro y puedan regresar nuevamente a las parroquias a guiar a su rebaño con la luz de la esperanza del Cristo resucitado.
5. Ayudémonos los unos a los otros sin perder la Fe, ni la esperanza.
6. Recordemos que el tiempo de Dios es perfecto y saldremos de estos momentos difíciles con más fuerza, con más fe, y con más humildad.
7. ¿Tomemos este tiempo de estar en casa para disfrutar nuestra iglesia doméstica, a redescubrir nuestro yo, a reflexionar sobre cuáles son los designios del Señor para nuestras vidas?

Los extraño mucho y tengo la esperanza de que pronto nos volveremos a reunir como pueblo de Dios, mientras tanto a seguir viviendo la iglesia doméstica con amor y esperanza.

Les prometo que seguiré orando por todos ustedes y espero que también oren por mí y por los míos. Los quiero mis hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

Un abrazo desde la distancia  
Arline Dosman  
Directora del Ministerio Hispano

this & that

comunidad hispana

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC, ICC) REGULAR CCD/SRE CLASSES

- All Masses and classes are cancelled at this time. Please continue to check the website or the latest resources that are online.
  - [www.holycrossdover.org](http://www.holycrossdover.org)
  - [www.iccmarydel.org](http://www.iccmarydel.org)

### FROM THE DRE'S DESK: (ICC)

School of Religious Education: If you have not received information for the completion of this school year or have questions, please email Mrs. Alicia at [dre@iccmarydel.org](mailto:dre@iccmarydel.org) or call her office at 410-482-8939. I will get them to you for your child to have Sunday Religious Education at home.

Here are this week's family catechesis education messages from Fr. Rich Jasper (English) and Father Carlos Ochoa (Spanish).

<https://www.cdow.org/familyvideoserries/>

## SRE REGISTRATIONS (ICC)

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020-2021 school year are available on the website or you can email office for them to be sent to you.

Fees are as follows: \$40 per child, not to exceed \$150 per family. This is to defray all costs of books, materials, and supplies.

LAS MATRICULAS: para nuestro programa de formación cristiana de niños en domingo están todavía disponibles en el despacho parroquial, en la entrada principal del templo, y en el internet. Favor de someterlas en lo más pronto posible, con la cobra de \$40 por cada niño, y no más de \$150 cada familia.

## PEER LEADERS (HC)

If you are interested in helping next year with classes and retreats, please email Mrs. Darling at [ldarling@holycrossdover.org](mailto:ldarling@holycrossdover.org). She will keep up with you via Flocknotes.

## REGISTRATION FOR HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Holy Cross School is accepting applications for the 2020 - 2021 school year. Please contact the school. Our website is [holycrossdover.org/school](http://holycrossdover.org/school). Download an application form and mail it into the parish office. You may also call 302-674-5787 x113; please leave your name and phone contact and we will call you back.

A Catholic education is one of the greatest gifts you can give your child, your family. Join us for the 2020-2021 school year!!



## WHY IS IT CALLED PENTECOST SUNDAY?

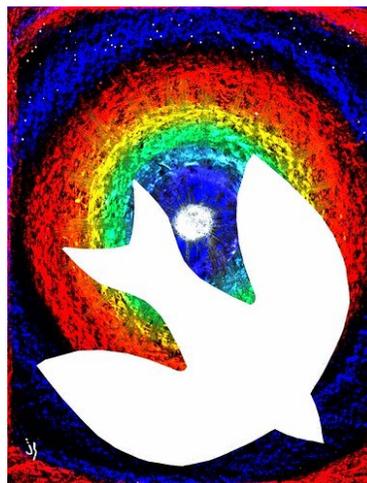
This Christian holy day commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit in the form of flames to the Apostles and other followers of Jesus Christ, as recorded in the New Testament in Acts 2:1-31, the fifth book of the New Testament of the Bible.

The Holy Spirit allowed the apostles to speak in other languages, and they started preaching the word of Jesus to the Jews who were in Jerusalem for the feast of Shavuot (also known as the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost - in this case, meaning seven weeks since Passover).

Many Christians recognize the Descent of the Holy Spirit as the birth of the Church.

In the United Kingdom, Pentecost is known as Whitsunday. The name "Whitsunday" is generally attributed to the white garments formerly worn by the candidates for baptism on this feast.

In Germany, Pentecost is called "Pfingsten" and often coincides with the beginning of many outdoor and springtime activities.



*I pledge myself to uphold the high purposes of the National Junior Honor Society to which I have been selected; I will be true to the principles for which it stands; I will be loyal to my school, and will maintain and encourage high standards of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship.*

These are the words of the oath taken by newly inducted members of the National Junior Honor Society. At Holy Cross we are particularly proud of our local chapter. Over the years we have inducted an impressive number of middle school students who have acted upon the invitation to apply for membership. Our induction ceremony is a lovely candlelight service held right on the foot-heels of the beginning of the new school year. During the induction, members receive their cords signifying membership into this society where the five pillars are Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character, and Citizenship.

Early on, it was important to us that in addition to the five pillars of the NJHS that as a Catholic school we also incorporate some aspect of our faith into our charter. Every year our chapter is mandated to complete a community service project. Every year you will see our very own Cemetery of Innocents, a gathering of white crosses symbolic of the magnitude of lives lost to abortion. It's serves as a wake-up call to all who pass by. Another service project that demonstrates not just a commitment to the five pillars, but to their faith as well is the Rosary Garden established last year. It is such a sweet space, slightly secluded meant for quiet prayer. It is a nicely landscaped area where seating is provided. In the center is a statue of our Blessed Mother. The garden was designed, created, and funded by our students.

Presented with the challenges of our most unusual school year, our chapter was forced to table their proposals for their service project for this year. This year, the focus was to raise funds for the collection of new toys for the TYO classroom. A second project was to create inspirational murals for our school buildings. Due to the shortened school year our students were deprived of the opportunity to research avenues that would lead to the fruition of their projects.

Undaunted by the restrictions imposed, and under the expert leadership of their moderators, Mrs. Guido and Mrs. Riecks, our students held meetings online and agreed to collaborate their efforts in creating two videos. Invited to attend their online meetings, I was astounded by the level of knowledge possessed by these young people. They had all sorts of suggestions as to who among them might have the individual capability for each aspect of the project. In the end, two videos were created.

The first video was created as a gift for our eighth grade graduates, while the second was created as a gift for our friends at Little Sisters of the Poor. We were unable visit this year and present the Living Stations for the residents. This is something our eighth grade does every year. So, instead, our membership created a video to let them know they were not forgotten. I invite you to view the videos. It's just a matter of typing in the link for each below!

[https://youtu.be/i4iNWZY\\_ZOk](https://youtu.be/i4iNWZY_ZOk)

<https://youtu.be/38QAJXxZmbE>

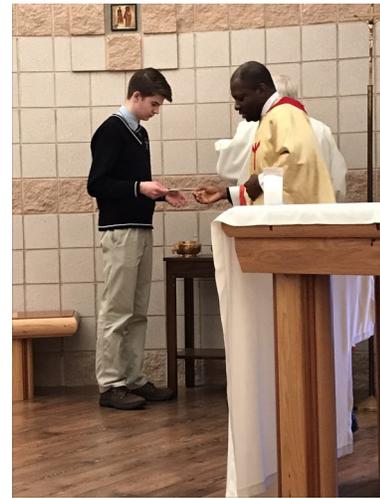
Nothing beats a gift that comes from the heart. Thank you to our NJHS for finding a way to overcome the obstacles set before us. It is this kind of determination that will serve you well as you journey the pathways in life.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

This week I bring you a scene from the Saint Thomas More Academy Chapel. Though the seats are not filled, it, like all of our churches during this pandemic, is not empty. Instead it is occupied by our living Lord! I also like to think that it remains filled with our memories of liturgies, prayer services, worship songs, and prayers.

A treasured tradition at STMA is to bring new students into our Chapel as part of their Orientation Day to make their Honor Code Pledge for the first time. Since its construction in 2003, our Chapel has heard more than 700 voices profess "Out of a desire to honor God, and as a Saint Thomas More student, I will act with honesty, integrity, and respect. I pledge to dedicate myself to a life of honor." At that service, the Ravens receive a pin signifying their pledge, which is blessed. That is something that they take with them, and which they continue to pledge each school day during morning exercises. I know full well it is something that they take with them beyond our walls, as they practice those virtues in everyday life.

Other special traditions include a wide variety of honors celebrations each year. From welcoming eighth grade scholars, to acknowledging the quarterly Honor Roll, to inducting new members of the National Honor Society, our Chapel has served as a place to recognize and celebrate students in the tradition of prayer and thanksgiving.



Even now, our Chapel is a place of prayer, bringing petitions to our Lord in this time of pandemic.

Yours in Christ,

*Rachael A. Casey*

Rachael Casey  
Principal

