



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

November 19, 2023

33rd Sunday Ordinary Time

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, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am

Wednesday – 8:15 am

Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.”

Matthew 25:21

The Parable of the Talents by Willem de Poorter, 17th century
© Dececan

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

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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

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.



Happy Thanksgiving from the Clergy and Staff at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes.

The Mass on Thanksgiving Day will be at 9 am on Thanksgiving Day at Holy Cross.

May you continue to be blessed with God's abundant love.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending November 5, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$24,999	\$27,650	(\$2,651)
YTD	\$447,146	\$507,150	(\$30,004)
Needs	\$1,897	\$1,712	\$185

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending November 5, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$5,558
Second Collection	\$719

Thank you to all our 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.

**An Announcement for Parishes
in the Silver Lake Deanery**

Dear Parishioners of Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes:

The Silver Lake Deanery is Church's administrative territory covering the areas overseen by St. Dennis (Galena), St. Polycarp (Smyrna), Holy Cross (Dover), Immaculate Conception (Marydel), and St. John the Apostle (Milford/Harrington). As part of the Diocesan Planning process, the various Deaneries of the Diocese of Wilmington, are seeking ways in which Parishes within a Deanery can more effectively work together to provide services to the faithful (and, conversely, identifying those areas where that is not practical).

Brief Survey. To that end, as Dean of the Silver Lake Deanery, I have compiled a survey to get parishioner assessment regarding areas/topics that have been reviewed by our Deanery Committee or by the Diocesan Pastoral Planning process. The survey is fairly simple, and should take only a few minutes to complete.

Deadline. I would like to compile the results of this survey to present to our Bishop and the steering committee of this Pastoral Planning process by early December. Thus, I would set the deadline for submissions to this survey at Tuesday, November 28, 2024

Use the Link to Complete the Survey. The survey itself is housed at the Immaculate Conception website, which provides a simple link for all to use: www.iccmarydel.org/survey -- the survey will be officially open from this weekend thru Tuesday November 28.

On behalf of my brother priests in the Silver Lake Deanery, I thank you for your faithfulness and your participation. I remain,
Yours in Christ,

Vy. Rev. James Lentini, VF
Dean - Silver Lake Deanery

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Dear Parishioners,

Last issue, in anticipation of Thanksgiving — a holiday in November in which we are commend to give thanks to God — I began writing on the sense of gratitude we are called to have as Catholics. I ended last column with a reference to a statement by Abraham Lincoln declaring a holiday of “Thanksgiving” to be observed. A holiday declared during the tough time of Civil War. Our President, Abraham Lincoln, was commending us to give thanks to God — not lamenting what we are lacking, but rather showing gratitude for and recognizing our blessings

In the spirit of Lincoln’s proclamation, annually, our

U.S. President issues a Thanksgiving Proclamation. In many ways they reflect that original proclamation of Lincoln, and echo, the necessity of man to give thanks to God. In those post— Presidential election season, I thought it might be good to get a taste of some of those Presidential Thanksgiving Proclamations from the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

On [Thanksgiving Day] let all of us, in accordance with our hallowed custom, foregather in our respective places of worship or in our homes and offer up prayers of thanks for our manifold blessings. Let the happiness which stems from family reunions on Thanksgiving Day be tempered with compassion ... for those less fortunate in our own country and in other lands.” - Dwight D. Eisenhower, November 8, 1957

“On that day let us gather in sanctuaries dedicated to worship and in homes blessed by family affection to express our gratitude for the glorious gifts of God; and let us earnestly and humbly pray that He will continue to guide and sustain us in the great unfinished tasks of achieving peace, justice, and understanding among all men and nations and of ending misery and suffering wherever they exist.” - John F. Kennedy, November 5, 1963

“Precisely two centuries have now passed since [our Independence]... we have never lost sight of the principles upon which our Nation was founded. For that reason we can look to the future with hope and confidence... I ask all Americans to gather on [Thanksgiving] day with their families and neighbors in their homes and in their houses of worship to give thanks for the blessings Almighty God has bestowed upon us. - James E. Carter, November 11, 1977

“In this season of Thanksgiving... Let us thank God for our families, friends, and neighbors, and for the joy of this very festival we celebrate in His name. Let every house of worship in the land and every home and every heart be filled with the spirit of gratitude and praise and love on this Thanksgiving Day.” - Ronald W. Reagan, November 15, 1985

Do We Love Lucy? There was a famous Charlie Brown (“Peanuts”) cartoon where the character Linus, always a thoughtful young man, is addressing his oft angry and complaining sister Lucy. He advises her, quite Biblically, “You know Lucy, it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.” Lucy ponders this for a moment. And in the next scene, she is standing out in the dark of night, looking at the darkened sky, and yells, “Curse you, darkness!” To paraphrase the title of an old TV show, sometimes, “We love

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Msgr. Daniel McGlynn	Pastor Emeritus
Rev. Brennan Ferris	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
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of those who recently passed:

- Joan Santelli
- Miguel Cadiz
- Peggy J. Perlot

May their soul and souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Avery Frances Ford
- Katherine Grace Bertelson

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

If you have been to the cemetery recently, I'm sure you had to notice all the beautiful American flags. Once again, members of the Cemetery Committee have replaced all the tattered and torn flags with new flags in honor of the veterans interred in our cemetery. While Memorial Day honors those who have died while in the service to our country, and rightfully so, we feel it is important to also honor all those who have served regardless of when they left this world. I thank the committee members for their assistance with the flags and for their devotion to our cemetery. I also thank all the parishioners who made donations towards the purchase of the flags after the Masses on Memorial Day weekend which financially makes it possible to replace the flags for both Memorial and Veterans Day. Unfortunately, the only way we know who our veterans were is by finding either a veteran's flag holder or a military plaque. As always, should you have any questions or concerns, contact me, Len Dornberger, at 302-674-5787 x135.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is having a membership drive. Men of both ICC and Holy Cross are welcome and invited to join the K of C. Contact people are: Francesco "Chris" Cristiano for ICC at 302-653-9004 and Dr. Wayne Thomas for Holy Cross at 302-697-1152

CHRIST THE KING (NOV 26)

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 34:11-12, 15-17

The Lord promises to look after the flock himself.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:20-26, 28

All shall be brought to life in Christ.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:31-46

The last judgement of the nations.

VOCATIONS

The Church is in great need of vocations to the priesthood and religious life in all its forms. And you can do something about it! Share a piece of pie with others:

PRAY for vocations for the Church and encourage others to do so.

INVITE young people you know to pray with you and join you in participating in faith formation and Church activities of all types.

ENCOURAGE young people you know to consider a vocation to priesthood or religious life, especially if you think they have the qualities to make a holy priest or religious

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL CRAFT FAIR

Thank you to all who contributed items to our fair and to all of you who attended and made our day a huge success.

DELAWARE CHORAL SOCIETY

The Delaware Choral Society will present "A Very Merry Pops Concert" at 6pm on Saturday, December 2nd at Wyoming United Methodist Church (216 Wyoming Mill Road, Dover). Advance tickets are \$18 and available from any DCS member, online at www.DelawareChoralSociety.org, or on our Facebook page. Tickets at the door will be \$20. Discount rates are available in advance for students and groups of 10 or more. Email fo@delawarechoralsociety.org for more information.

PRO-LIFE INFORMATION

Many thanks to everyone who has supported our pro-life efforts during this October's Respect Life Month. New Day Pregnancy Care Center has served over 700 clients this past year!! The Holy Cross collection for the pregnancy care center has been going to great use.

New Day operates on a shoestring budget and depends on donations to provide parenting classes, counseling and other items to help women and children free of charge.

As Catholics, we are called to care for the most vulnerable among us. Catholic = Pro Love. Donations to New Day can be made via their website: <https://newdaypcc.com/> Or mail a check to New Day Pregnancy Care Center.
811 S. Governors Ave. Dover, DE 19904.

MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER

20 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Jerry Lardieri

21 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Jim Clougherty

22 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Jim Clougherty

23 THURSDAY

HC 9:00 am Joan Valentine

24 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Sue Gede

25 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Thomas G. Donnelly
HC 5:00 pm Arthur and Carolyn Demers

26 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Jack Abeln
ICC 8:30 am Delores & Ed McGowan
HC 9:30 am Susanne Bresnahan
ICC 11:00 am Teresa Crenshaw
HC 11:30 am Beth McFadden
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

*(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)*

*THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHAPEL FOR
11/19-11/25 IS FOR ETHAN STATHEM*

*THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHURCH FOR
11/19-11/25 IS FOR (LI) GRANDCHILDREN OF
EDWIN AND NINA FRANK*

40 Days for Life Advocates have been praying, fasting and standing on the sidewalk from Sept 27th to Nov 5th to offer kindness, emotional support, and alternative options to couples seeking abortion.

Community support has been rising and some mothers did change their hearts after seeing ultrasounds (at New Day). We welcome new advocates and provide all training. You can make a life-saving impact! Keep us in prayer as we remain at the abortion center all year long. Our ministry is self-funded and supported by donations.

Won't you join us? Talk to Donna Latteri, Area Coordinator, 862-266-1099



NOV 25/26, 2023			
	EMHC	SERVERS	
5:00 PM	J. Bieker	M. MacLeish	G. Coyle
	D. Kaltenbaugh	P. Sheldon	M. Coyle
			LECTORS
			J. Davis F. Urick
7:30 AM	R. O'Neill	W. Thomas	T. Catipay
	J. Salamone	A. Wyllie	S. Shevock
			LECTORS
			M. Jacobs
9:30 AM	K. Kelly	D. McGinis	C. Imhof
	S. Lascano	L. Olmstead	F. Madukwe W. Shuron
			LECTORS
			S. Crossen C. Parks
11:30 AM	T. Hernandez	M. Richard	TBD
	E. Patoriza		
			LECTORS
			TBD
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	G. Godfrey		
			LECTORS
			B. Thompson
11:00 AM	G. Taraila		
			LECTORS
			D. King
1:00 PM	TBD		

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

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

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

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

SUNDAY	7 am, 4 pm, 5pm
MONDAY	5 pm
TUESDAY	5 am,
WEDNESDAY	7 am
FRIDAY	8 am
SATURDAY	5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm

This is the year of the Eucharistic Revival. What better time is there to select an open hour in our Adoration Chapel and spend some time with Jesus weekly. Please consider taking some time each week out of your busy schedule to sit in silence and prayer before Our Lord. Call today to reserve your hour. You will be so blessed and glad you did.

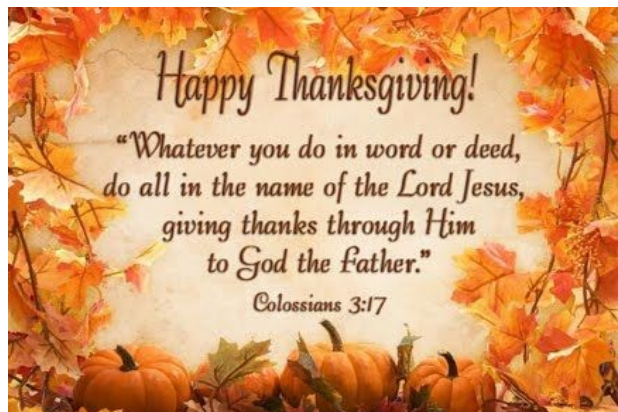
SAMARITANS THANKSGIVING BASKETS

We will be distributing Thanksgiving Baskets this week to the needy in our parish and community. If you haven't been able to donate some food items, we certainly can still use your donations. Turkeys are needed! Canned vegetables, cranberries, instant potatoes, pumpkin pie mix, anything related to Thanksgiving dinner.

Please drop the food in the Pantry Food Drop Box in the building behind the Rectory. We have a new green sign near the drop box door.

KNITTING GROUP

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting and fellowship, join the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We meet on Tuesday mornings from 10 am to Noon in the St. Look Room of the Early Learning Center Building. Please come join us to see what we are all about.



- Feliz día de Acción de Gracias :La próxima semana se celebra en esta nación el día de Acción de Gracias. Donde tomamos una pausa para reflexionar por todo lo que tenemos que agradecerle a Dios. Es uno de los días festivos más importantes de Estados Unidos. Empezó a festejarse desde 1621 con los Nativos y los Colonos juntos hicieron una celebración cristiana protestante en la que se agradecía a Dios por una buena cosecha. Hoy se celebra donde las familias y amigos se reúnen para comer, festejar y agradecer por todo lo bueno que les ha sucedido durante el año.
- Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe: Ya se aproxima la celebración en honor a nuestra Señora de Guadalupe los días 11 y 12 de diciembre. Se les invita a las personas que quieran donar algo o cantarle a la virgen, voluntarios para arreglar y adornar, por favor de anotarse con alguno de los miembros de la Junta directiva.
- Retiro de Adviento: Nuestro Retiro de Adviento es el sábado, 25 de noviembre de 8:00 AM a 3:00 PM donación es de \$15 y será en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción, 522 Main St. Marydel, MD 21649 en el salón parroquial.
- Preparémonos para el Adviento- Comienza el 3 de diciembre de 2023. El primer domingo de Adviento es también el comienzo del nuevo año litúrgico, en el que entramos en un nuevo ciclo litúrgico. Dios viene para todos, y todos lo esperan. Primera vela / Domingo: ESPERANZA (Vela de la Profecía)- Segunda vela / Domingo: LA PAZ (La vela de Belén)-Tercera vela / Domingo: ALEGRÍA (Vela del Pastor)- Llamado «Domingo de Gaudete», que significa alégrate, una vela rosa en la corona de Adviento representa este domingo. En la misa, también verás a sacerdotes y diáconos con vestiduras rosas, que nos llevan a esperar con alegría el nacimiento de Jesús. Cuarta vela / Domingo: AMOR (Vela del Ángel). Vivamos el Adviento
- Todos los viernes de 6-8 Foro Cristiano con el padre Brennan Ferris: Todos los viernes, de 6:00PM hasta las 8:00PM. El tema es: "El Misterio Eucarístico" donde todo el año las clases se centrará en la EU-CARISTIA y la PRESENCIA REAL en la Eucaristía Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024. El tema de este año es sobre "El Misterio Eucarístico" que sin duda es el centro de nuestra FE, de la Liturgia Sagrada y sobre todo de la vida cristiana.
- POSADAS: Ya está abierta las inscripciones para las Posadas 2023. Recuerde que se les recomienda que varias familias se unan para tomar una Posada, o unirse a la Posada del Fr. Ferris, que comienza el 16 al 24 de diciembre.
- Comparta sus dones y Carismas: Todo lo que tenemos es un regalo de Dios, y como cristianos tenemos la obligación de compartir esos dones que tenemos para la honra y gloria del Señor y para con el prójimo. Si usted desea servir en algún ministerio por favor hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman al 302-674-5787 ext. 118 o con uno de los miembros del ministerio en que le gustaría servir o algún miembro de servidores de la Junta Directiva.

ICC

- NO hay Clases: El próximo domingo, 26 de noviembre la próxima clases será el domingo 3 de diciembre...
- ¡Se necesitan voluntarios para ayudar con el equipo de preparación para la Confirmación! Si usted o conoce a alguien interesado en ser voluntario o un adolescente que desea ser líder para Educación Religiosa o pertenecer al equipo para la preparación para la Confirmación o un adulto que sea bilingüe para ayudar con la Confirmación una vez al mes y en los retiros. Por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti @ dre@iccmaryl.org o 410-482-8939.
- Formación de Adultos. Lunes 6:30 – 8:30PM Los lunes, en el salón. Hay 7 sesiones sobre la "Eucaristía-Alimento Sagrado, Sacrificio, Presencia Real. Costo \$25. Hay que inscribirse con la Sra. Alicia.
- Se necesitan voluntarios. Si usted o alguien que conoce está interesado en ser voluntario, ser un líder de pares para la Educación Religiosa o la Preparación para la Confirmación, comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti @ dre@iccmaryl.org o 410-482-8939.
- Preparación Sacramental para la Primera Reconciliación Sesión #3 el martes, 21 de noviembre a las 6:30 – 7:30 pm en el salón.
- Para la preparación Sacramental de la Confirmación Sesión # 2 el domingo 19, de noviembre de 3:00 – 5:30 en el salón.
- Formación de Catequistas: Martes, 28 de noviembre, 7-8:30pm en el salón.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next Class: November 19th 3:00pm-5:00pm

Please be mindful when dropping and picking up students. Keep our parking lot safe by parking your car and walking your student up to the building. When picking up your student, park your car and walk to the cones by the exit ramp.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Next LAFF class is December 10 at 10:30 am.. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences.

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

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

In recognition of the Eucharist Revival that is continuing Deacon Bob will be presenting a weekly study program that focuses on the Eucharist. He will be presenting from different programs so you can receive a deeper understanding of the Real Presence. The class will begin with Bishop Barron's The Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence. He will also bring information from Dr. Scott Hahn and others. Classes began on September 19th and will continue up to Advent. You can still join us!!

Classes will be offered at 9:00am or 7:00pm every Tuesday in the Matthew Mark room in the Holy Parish Office. This is a free class. No workbooks will be distributed, however other resources may be used.

If interested in registering for the class please email Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Class:

Next class is Sunday, November 26 and Wednesday, November 29

MOUNT 2000:

For high school teens February 2-4, 2024. Cost is \$100 - eucharistic retreat put on by the seminari-

ans at Mt. St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD. Please let Mrs. Darling know your desire to attend so that she may forward you registration information.

Cookie Baking

December 2, 9 am to noon - all junior high and high school teens are welcome to come help bake cookies for the Samaritan food baskets for Christmas.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Religious Education at Immaculate Conception: Sacramental Preparation Classes:

NO Classes: No Sunday Religious Education Classes next week, November 26th. Classes will resume December 3rd.

Sacramental Preparation Classes:

Confirmation session #2: Today, Sunday, November 19th @ 3pm-5:30pm in hall.

First Reconciliation session #3: Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30pm- 7:30pm in Hall

Adult Formation at Immaculate Conception: Monday evenings 6:30-8:30pm in the Parish Hall.

You can still join us!

*Bishop Robert Barron's "Eucharist- Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence"

Sessions will include, DVD viewing, discussion, reading, reflection, workbook.

Join us!!

Catechist Inservice

Tuesday, November 28th, 7-8:30pm in Parish Hall.

ADULT ED OPPORTUNITIES

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>



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-espagnol-registration>



Rarely does a week go by that some commentary on the school parking lot is not made. Some come by of direct contact with a parent, some through a third party. Not everyone is unhappy really, but there's always an opinion to share. As most will recall, it was the onset of the pandemic which dictated a revolutionary change in our dismissal procedure. As with most revolutionary changes, the dismissal modification was made after numerous discussions on the best way to get as many cars on the parking lot as possible and off of State Street. With the mandatory elimination of the after-school activities we were dismissing just about our entire enrollment which translated as a dangerously long line of cars coming from both directions on State Street. We staggered our dismissal times, the ELC children would be picked up at 2:30 while the rest of the school was dismissed at 2:50. But many conversations ensued as a collection of us would gather at the windows before it was all figured out. Sort of.

The process has remained the same, even after it was deemed safe enough for parents to enter the buildings following the period of the pandemic. The reason for not reverting back to the old way when parents parked their vehicles, entered the buildings,is because that system wasn't perfect either. We don't need perfection; we want what works for everyone involved. Parents have told me time and time again; they don't mind the car-line at all. I don't blame them. If I were a parent, I would relish thirty minutes or so of quiet time. I've seen countless books being read, phone conversations being had, I saw a mom knitting a pair of warm, woolen mittens, and I've had to wake up more than just a few who seized the opportunity to catch forty winks. So, all things considered, I think the car-line is here to stay.

Most afternoons you will find me directing the incorporation of ELC cars into the car line. The ELC cars are those that are parked in the center awaiting the dismissal of an older child. While waiting for the 2:50 dismissal to begin moms will often open car windows and/ the sun roof for air-circulation. The younger students will use this time to socialize from one car to another, often popping their heads through the open sun-roof to include more friends in the conversation. It really is a sweet scenario, the littles having a load of fun laughing and teasing back and forth.

But, now.....a problem has been sited. After I have woven each ELC car into the car-line, apparently the sun-roof fun is continuing with sweet littles continuing in their playful frivolity between friends in other moving cars. Slow moving? Yes. But nonetheless a moving vehicle with a young child standing on the seat of the moving car is not my idea of a good idea. Oftentimes the owners of vehicles like to display their sentiments, beliefs, and other aspects of their personalities with fellow drivers on the roadways. They do so by affixing stickers, signs and other graphics on their windows and vehicle exterior. There are some that resonate with me over others. One is particular that sends the message for all motorists to be aware simply states: Precious Cargo Onboard.

It may well be said that with the eventual onset of cooler temperatures, this whole problem will correct itself. That remains to be seen. But for now....

Please be safe and insure the youngest is secured in the regulation car seat on the back seat of the family vehicle before moving into the slow-moving traffic that forms the car-line.

Lucy." We like the idea of incessant complaining, and envious grieving about what we don't have.

Show Me the Way. But that's not the way to go. In our Catholic faith, we know that it is far better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. And, if we, the followers of Jesus Christ don't bring light into this world, then we just add to the darkness. We are called to be a people of gratitude — of thankfulness — for the Eucharist, which is the source and the summit of our faith, is a word that itself meaning "thanksgiving." As the Catechism teaches (CCC #1360):

"The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption, and sanctification. Eucharist means first of all 'thanksgiving.'"

Saints Preserve Us! So, this Thanksgiving Day, be thankful — because there is much for which to be thankful. In a world of darkness, the act of giving thanks, and of being grateful, brings light — the light of God — to you and those around you. The saints, that wonderful cloud of witnesses, who have gone before tell us no less in some inspirational words that beckon to be thankful — in good times and bad.

"The best way to show my gratitude is to accept everything, even my problems, with joy." — St. Teresa of Calcutta

"Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence." — Pope St. John Paul II

Get used to lifting your heart to God, in acts of thanksgiving, many times a day. Because he gives you this and that. Because you have been despised. Because you haven't what you need or because you have. Because he made his Mother so beautiful, his Mother who is also your Mother. Because he created the sun and the moon and this animal and that plant. Because he made that man eloquent and you he left tongue-tied ... Thank him for everything, because everything is good." — St. Josemaria Escriva

"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God, and in all things give Him thanks." — St. Teresa of Avila

"Jesus does not demand great action from us but simply surrender and gratitude." — St. Therese of Lisieux

Meanwhile in the 1620s. And let us not forget the Pilgrims, who gave up everything and everyone they knew to travel across an ocean, to a new and strange land. Their early years were tough, rife with sickness, hunger and difficulty. And yet, starting with their first year, each year they held a day of thanksgiving — a meal of thanksgiving, which was shared with the native peoples. And while the cynical one might have looked at the dire circumstances of the Pilgrims and have said, "Hey, what did they have to be thankful for?" We think differently, as did the Pilgrims. Below is an extract from 1625 prayer book which reflects the types of prayers that the Pilgrim might have made in Thanksgiving during some of their toughest times; here's one of those prayer:

O Lord our God and heavenly Father, which of Thy unspeakable mercy towards us, hast provided meat and drink for the nourishment of our weak bodies. Grant us peace to use them reverently, as from Thy hands, with thankful hearts. Let Thy blessing rest upon these Thy good creatures, to our comfort and sustentation: and grant we humbly beseech Thee, good Lord, that as we doe hunger and thirst for this food of our bodies, so our souls may earnestly long after the food of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen.

Complaining about "The Bird"? So, this Thanksgiving, is you find yourself complain about the traffic of the day, the family dramas that unfold, having too many things that you want to watch, not think the "bird" was too tasty, or (amazing) complaining about having too much to eat... stop for a moment. Put things in perspective. Look back at the lives of the Pilgrim who had little to nothing, yet shared what little they had — and gave thanks to God. Look at a Crucifix — think of the Sacrifice of Christ. Think of Christ's actions on what was a day that was certainly tougher than any of Thanksgiving Days would be. As suffering and death came on the horizon, Jesus was still the model of Thanksgiving for us, as noted in the fourth Eucharistic Prayer's words:

"For when the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, Father most holy, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end... he gave thanks, and gave the chalice to his disciples...."

Imitate Christ. So, this Thanksgiving reflect on the Pilgrims, consider the words of the saints, and above all, imitate Christ is his gratitude. And if you are feeling hard to find gratitude in a difficult time consider this: you can complain because the rosebush has thorns, or rejoice that the thorns have roses. Go the thankful route! Be grateful for the blessings you have had in this life; be grateful for the hope of heaven extended to you; and be grateful to God who so loved the world, that he sent his only Son as its Savior. A joyous and Happy Thanksgiving to all of you!

Fr. James Lentini, Pastor