



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 28, 2021

First Sunday Advent

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

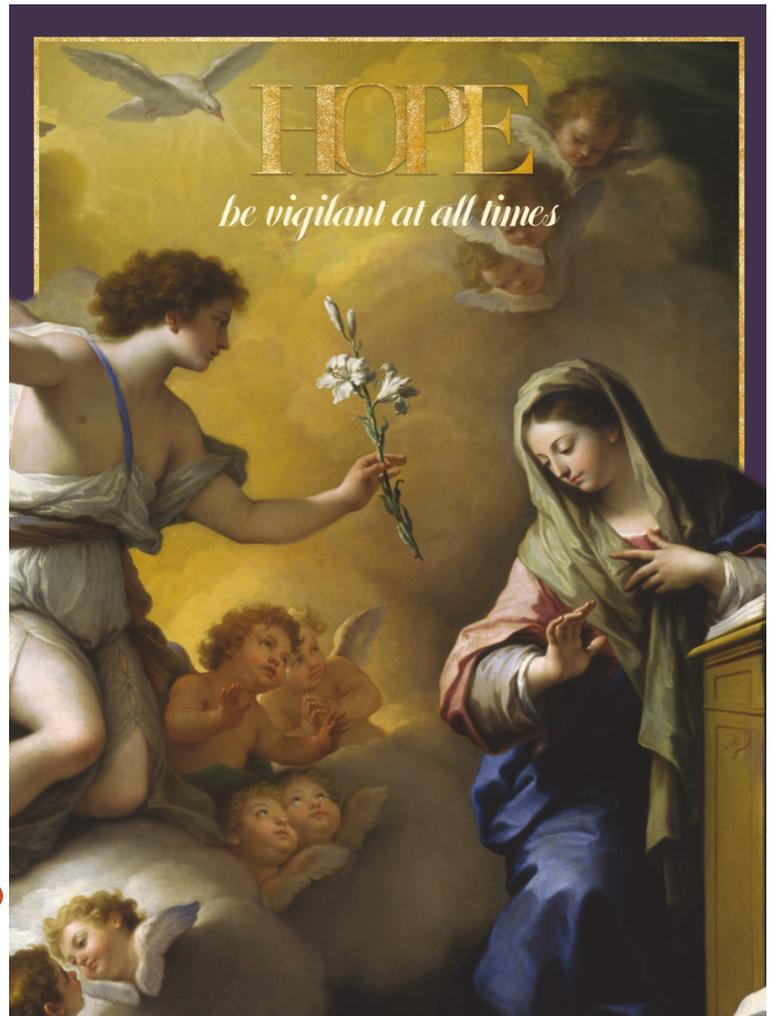
Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday and Friday, 12:10 pm
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am—9 pm



HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

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

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

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

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.

MASS BOOK 2022 (HC)

The **Mass Book for 2022 is now open.** Due to the reduced number of Masses we are currently offering, we must restrict the number of requests. Please see below:

1. You can **request ONLY 3 Masses** and payment of \$10 per Mass is required at the time of the request.
2. Requests **MUST** be written out providing **your name, phone number, email, maximum three requests listing date and time of request (with alternative dates) and with person's name (remember intention can be for one person or members of same family only for the intentions).** We will do our best to honor your request. *Please note we are only offering the 8 am Masses Monday through Saturday, 5 pm Saturday Mass, Sunday 7:30 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am Spanish Masses.*
3. Requests will be taken Monday through Fridays, 8:30 am to 2 pm only.
4. Requests for the Church tabernacle candle or Adoration Chapel candle can also be made. \$10 per request. Limit **one** request per person.

Please call the office with any questions.

MASSES FOR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—DECEMBER 8

Holy Cross: Tuesday, December 7 at 7:00 pm; Wednesday, December 8 at 8:00 am and 12:10 pm. No 7 pm on Dec. 8

Immaculate Conception: Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 5:30 pm in English, 7:00 pm in Spanish/ Wednesday, December 8 at 9:00 am in English.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

November 14, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$19,515	\$26,000	(\$6,485)
YTD	\$500,314	\$491,300	(\$16,986)
Needs	\$979	\$1,480	(\$501)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending November 14, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,128
2nd	\$192

For Holy Cross, 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 appreciate your generosity to the church.

Dear Parishioners,

Trivial Matters. I like trivia... odd facts... bizarre questions. Do chickens eat more when they are eating alone, or when they are eating alongside other chickens? You are in a school that teaches tauromaquia — what sport is it teaching you about? Does an inch-worm live-and-die as an inch-worm or does it become something else (if so, what)? For me, these are the silly, but trivially invigorating questions that titillate the mind. For the record, the answers are: (1) Chickens actually eat three times more when they are eating with other chickens; (2) "Tauromaquia" is the study of the sport of bullfighting; and (3) an inch-worm, is not a worm at all, he is a form of a caterpillar, and he undergoes a metamorphosis and becomes a moth.

Beginnings. Ah, that little inch-worm moving upon the ground, marks the beginning of the fluttering life of the moth that takes to the air. That inch-worm, to quote once of my favorite songs by the group Chicago from their 1970 hit "Beginnings" is "only the beginning, only just the start." Just as the caterpillar is the start of the beautiful butterfly, the kernel is the start of popcorn, and the acorn is the start of the great oak tree, the inch-worm is the beginning something good.

Happy New Year. And on the matter of beginnings, this Sunday is the start of the new Church year; it is the beginning of the Season of Advent. The Season of Advent starts on the first Sunday of Advent, and with it an entire new Church year lies ahead. While the civil new year begins on January 1, for the Catholic Church the new year arrives today, this Sunday, with the start of Advent. And unlike the January 1 "New Year" the new Church year doesn't begin with celebration and festivity — it begins with a four week period of preparation for the coming Christ, and takes on a penitential tone as we prepare for the big event. And for us the big event is not the start of the new Church year, but rather what lies ahead: the celebration (on December 25) of the first born of the new creation, Jesus Christ: mankind's new beginning, and salvation.

Be Prepared. Advent, the beginning of the Church year, is connected to a few important "beginnings" in our Catholic faith. The most obvious of those was noted above: Jesus Christ who is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. His coming into this world, for which Advent prepares us, marks a new beginning for mankind — his birth is the beginning and the fulfillment of the long awaited hope for a Messiah.

To quote from "O Holy Night," he is "the thrill of hope" for which a "weary world rejoices." And Advent marks the beginning of that period of preparation for his coming.

Good Things Come in Threes. In addition to coming of Christ into the world, there are two other beginnings that dance around the Season of Advent that are worth noting. And they have to do with "Apostolic succession" and the salvation history.

St. Andrew and November 30. The Season of Advent begins on the Sunday closest to feast of St. Andrew (November 30). The question is this: Is that a coincidence? Or is St. Andrew's feast being in that position intentional? That is to say, could November 30 have been the Feast of St. Cuneunda, the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul or the Feast of St. Demetrius the Myrrh Streamer (that's a real thing, look it up), or is St. Andrew's placement at the doorstep of Advent to be considered meaningful? While the answer to that question could be argued both ways, I like to think that it is intentional, and meaningful.

Call Awaiting. So, what is the meaning of St. Andrew's feast day signaling the beginning of the Church year? Or better put why is his feast day, November 30, meaningful to the beginning of the Church year. Well, St. Andrew was the first Apostle called by Christ; the first of the Twelve. Thus, just as Advent marks the beginning of the Church year, St. Andrew marks the beginning of the Apostles, and the beginning of what we call "Apostolic Succession." That is, it marks the beginning of the idea that Christ came into this world as a new born king, and after he would ascend back to the heaven, he would leave a line of successors, shepherds (a.k.a., Bishops) — that can forever be traced back to Him — to continue to lead that Church that he would create. And that line of succession began with St. Andrew

Norm! When we pray in the Nicene Creed, "I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church," that term apostolic speaks about the lineage of Apostles chosen by Christ and their successors (most especially in the person of the Pope). And thus, the beginning of the Church year (the Sunday closest to feast of St. Andrew) is normed by celebration of Jesus' calling of the first Apostle (Andrew), and the beginning of Apostolic succession — the beginning, in kernel form, of our Church becoming "apostolic."

Continued on page 10

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green/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. 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



MARRIAGE MOMENTS

With Christmas approaching, remember the first time you met your beloved's family. Our family of origin greatly influences our behavior - for good or for ill. Honor the good in your beloved's family of origin and let go of harping on the bad.

PARENTING POINTERS

Focus this weekend on how your family can simplify your lifestyle, not just buy more stuff. Maybe do a family house cleaning.

SVDP MEETING (IC)

St. Vincent de Paul meeting will meet from now on in the office building every month on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP (IC)

We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 AM in the ICC Parish Hall. Knitters & crocheters Welcome. Questions call Karen Cairns 302-382-9316

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (IC)

Soup and Silent Auction at Immaculate Conception in Marydel

Sunday Nov. 28, 2021

9:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Soups \$5 per container

\$1 Donuts and Coffee for Early Birds

READINGS FOR DECEMBER 5

SECOND SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: BARUCH 5:1-9

The prophet Baruch echoes the message of Isaiah that God will enable us to walk safely on level ground.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 1:4-6, 8-11

Paul wants us to prepare for the Day of Christ. His prayer for us is that we will always recognize what is best.

GOSPEL: LUKE 3:1-6

John the Baptist is the one who fulfills the prophecy about preparing a way for the Lord and shows us what needs to be done.

SAMARITAN GIVING TREE

This year, we will continue with our Giving Tree for the Samaritans. We would still like to collect monetary donations in order to help those in need. We have our Samaritan Tree in the Gathering Space with envelopes on it. All funds received will go into the Samaritan account so we can then help those in need who contact us and are cleared that they truly need help. Please consider making a donation to the Samaritans through this Giving Tree so we will have funds available to help those in need throughout the year. Take an envelope from the tree and return it to the Parish Office or put it in the collection basket in the envelope. All funds go into the Samaritan account. Do not leave checks or money at the tree.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

The pre-Christmas clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 11th ; this includes the removal of Halloween and Thanksgiving decorative items except artificial flowers. If you wish to reclaim your decorations for reuse please do so by then. Your assistance in disposing of decorations at home will help reduce our clean up time and costs.

Christmas decorations (such as wreaths, poinsettias, blankets, etc.) are permitted from December 1st until March 1st. As always, thank you for your understanding and cooperation in maintaining our sacred grounds. For more information, contact Len Dornberger at 674-5787 x135.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to the Catholic Forum radio program/podcast each week. Next Saturday, December 4th, tune-in to hear an interview with Ms. Kathleen Beckman, author of the book, "A Family Guide to Spiritual Warfare." Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at facebook.com/CatholicForum.

VOCATIONS

Jesus told His Disciples, "I came to serve, not to be served."

A vocation is a call to serve. It is a profession, an urge, a predisposition to undertake a certain kind of work. It is a choice for which you are particu-

MASS INTENTIONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

29 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Michael Fahey

30 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Kathleen Sinclair

1 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Ellen G. Laskowski

2 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Lida Smith
ICC 6:30 pm For the People

3 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Lida Smith

4 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Dorothy Schuller
HC 5 pm Amanda Horton

5 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Lida Smith
ICC 8:30 am Louis & Anna Adam
HC 9:30 am Fr. Joseph Etim
ICC 11 am Alexis & Carl De Francesco
HC 11:30 am Elena B. Rodriguez
ICC 1 pm For the People

(LI = LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

larly suited. The central question always is, "How best can I serve my God and others?"

If you feel a calling to the married life, there are many Church ministries from which to choose. Many are in need of your service, as a deacon, a Eucharistic minister, a visitor to the sick and aged, or an usher. Whatever you choose, do something that serves others. When you do this, you are serving God.

If you feel a calling to priesthood or religious life, ask questions and talk to priests or religious. They know that surviving isn't enough. They can help you come to know your vocation or career, or even your own true self.

Above all, start with prayer. Whatever your vocation, if you are good at what you do, it is a gift from God. Only through prayer will you be able to recognize what vocation gift He wants to give to you.

MASS MINISTERS

DEC 4/5

HOLY CROSS

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Salamone M. Casey J. Novack
C. Helwig F. Ernst J. Novack

LECTORS

D. Belt

7:30 AM M. Thompson A. Fischer A. Costa
C. Brown J. Fischer M. Costa
J. Davis

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM G. Wessel J. Zajac G. Maddalena
M. Wessel K. Boyer
R. Wiley

LECTORS

J. Coffield

11:30 AM E. Vincente M. Richard C. Costes
A. Luna E. Cortes
A. Betancourt

LECTORS

T. Hernandez

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM J. Moore

LECTORS

D. SMith

11:00 AM B. VanVessan

LECTORS

L. Schlaupitz

1:00 PM

LECTORS

- Attention Holy Cross liturgical ministers: If you have not responded to our request to send in updated information on which ministry you are involved with, your name, contact information, and your ministry you are involved with, please do so now so we can get you on our next schedule. If we don't hear from you, we cannot place you on the schedule. Contact M. Dornberger at 674-5787, ext 116, or email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org

WANTED—PICKUP TRUCK (HC)

Holy Cross Parish is in need of a used pick up truck for our maintenance department. Our current pick up has died and is beyond repair. If you have, or know of someone who would like to donate a used pickup that is in good condition to the parish, please contact the Parish Office, extension 113. Thank you for your consideration.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

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

SUNDAY 7 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 2 pm

FRIDAY 8 am

SATURDAY 5 am, 8 am, 10 am, 11 am, 2 pm, 7 pm

IHEAP APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities is taking applications for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** for the upcoming heating season. This federally-funded program assists low-income Delawareans with heating bills through direct payments to home energy suppliers. The benefit is based on a household's income, size, and type of fuel.

In order to qualify, you must make an appointment with Catholic Charities. Call your local Catholic Charities office. Regular office hours are 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. In Kent County, call 302-674-1782.

SAMARITAN DONATIONS OF

Thank you to all who donated canned items and turkeys to assist with our Thanksgiving baskets. Your generosity is truly appreciated and allowed us to help those in need this holiday season.

We will continue to collection donations for our upcoming Christmas baskets. Again, any canned goods, juices, etc can be placed on the tables. The freezers are available to place any frozen meat items.

NUESTRA FAMILIA

- Feliz Año Nuevo: El Adviento es el comienzo del nuevo Año Litúrgico, empieza el domingo 28 de noviembre y termina el 24 de diciembre. Son los cuatro domingos anteriores a la Navidad y forma una unidad con la Navidad y la Epifanía. con marcado carácter escatológico, mirando a la venida del Señor al final de los tiempos. Las lecturas bíblicas de este tiempo de Adviento están tomadas sobre todo del profeta Isaías (primera lectura), también se recogen los pasajes más proféticos del Antiguo Testamento señalando la llegada del Mesías. Isaías, Juan Bautista y La virgen María son los modelos de creyentes que la Iglesia ofrece a los fieles para preparar la venida del Señor Jesús.
- La fiesta en honor a Nuestra Sra. De Guadalupe se llevará a cabo de la siguiente manera: el sábado, 11 de diciembre de 10-12 la noche a 12 media noche tendremos las mañanitas. El domingo que es el Tercer Domingo de Adviento se celebrará la misa correspondiente al Adviento. La imagen estará dentro del templo con sus respectivas flores. Se dará una bolsa con tamales y atole para llevar después de la misa. Si usted desea colaborar para las flores, los tamales, atole por favor comuníquese con el Sr. Epitacio Méndez y la Sra. Marta Espinosa.
- POSADAS: Diciembre 16-24. Este año las Posadas serán presenciales. Si desea tomar una Posada hable con las Sras. Fabiola y Cristina Cebrero les pedimos que encarecidamente que varias familias se unan para tomar una posada. Familias, amigos y vecinos. Tradicionalmente la primera Posada de Holy Cross es la Posada de la iglesia o del Padre, si alguien quiera unirse o ayudar con esta Posada hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman. Puede colaborar con Tamales, Atole, Piñatas, Refrescos, Buñuelos, Dulce, Aguinaldos, platos, vasos y utensilios desechables. Necesitamos personas para el arreglo y la limpieza.
- Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-bautismales. Por

favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118

- Symbolon Explicación de la fe católica: conocimiento de la fe. Estamos ofreciendo una serie de videos / libros de estudio una vez más El costo es de \$ 25 para el libro del participante Parte 1
- En español en la parroquia de la Santa Cruz. Con el padre Oscar y la Sra. Arline. Todos los viernes a las 6:00 – 8:00 PM de la tarde el ELC. Si está interesado hable con la Sra. Arline.
- En inglés en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción con la Sra. Alicia. Todos los lunes a las 7:00P.M. La primera parte continuara hasta el 13 de diciembre y la segunda parte comenzara después del Año Nuevo.
- “Caminando Juntos” El Sínodo es una invitación para que cada diócesis se tome un camino de profunda renovación inspirada por la gracia del Espíritu de Dios., plantea una cuestión principal: ¿Cómo se realiza hoy en nuestra Iglesia el "caminar juntos" en la sinodalidad? ¿Qué pasos nos invita a dar el Espíritu Santo para crecer en nuestro "caminar juntos"? El obispo Koenig nos invita a que invoquemos y oremos en comunidad o individualmente todos los días el
- Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus (Oración invocando al Espíritu Santo.)
- La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul invita a una Subasta Silenciosa y Sopas el domingo, 28 de noviembre de 9:30 AM a 12:30 PM en el salón de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel, MD

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA (IC)

- Primera Reconciliación: Nuestra próxima sesión será el martes 30 de noviembre. De 6:30 PM -7:30pm
- Adolescentes en Preparación para la Confirmación la próxima sesión será domingo, 12 de noviembre a las 2:30 de la tarde a 5:00 PM en el salón.
- Formación de Adultos: Si usted está interesado en algún curso de formación para adultos, o ha oído de algún curso que sea de su interés por favor llame a la oficina.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class – December 5 at 3:30 pm

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office.
- 7th and 8th graders are in the Holy Cross Junior High building.
- No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter either building.
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY.
- Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.

Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows:

- Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and Sacramental Prep – 5:15pm
- Grades K-1 -5:20pm
- Grades 2- 5:25pm
- Grades 3-4 5:30pm

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

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

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class December 12th; 10:30am-12:30pm in the Matthew/Mark Room;

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION (Corrected Information)

Advent is around the corner! Holy Cross is offering the class Advent: Preparing for Christ Cycle C. Classes will be held on Tuesdays at 9 am or 7 pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the Early Learning Center upstairs. Classes will begin on November 30, 2021. There will be a \$17 for the workbook that accompanies the class.

If you are interested in attending, please register by either emailing Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or calling (302)

674-5787 X 122.

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Cookie Baking - Saturday December 11.

Attention all Junior and High School teens. We will be baking cookies to place in the Samaritan Food Baskets for Christmas. Please come help with our dozens of cookies.

We will divide into two groups - two times. 9 am to 10:30 am and 10:30 am to noon. Please let Mrs. Darling know which time you would like to help. Contact her at ldarling@holycrossdover.org

Youth Choir—If you are interested in assisting with music at the 5 pm Saturday Mass on the third Saturday of the month, please contact the Parish Office. We are in need of singers, percussion, piano and guitars. Rehearsal is each Tuesday evening at 6:30 in the choir room.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (IC)

There will be no SRE on this Sunday, November 28th, Thanksgiving weekend. Classes resume December 5th.

Sacraments: 1st Reconciliation Prep- next session on Tuesday, November 30 at 6:30-7:30pm

Youth confirmation prep- Next session will be Sunday, December 12th, 2:30-5pm in the hall.

Symbolon will continue until December 13th. Part 2 will begin after New year.

Adult Formation: If there is a course or series you have heard of and have interest in, please call the office and let Alicia Poppiti know. We would be happy to offer more courses for adults in our parish.

My brother was a Boy Scout. Being his older sister I took on the responsibility of helping him memorize the Boy Scout Oath. I always appreciated the message conveyed by the oath and the overall mission of the organization. Their motto; *Be Prepared* is equally as admirable. Words to live by.

[On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.]

The twelve points of the Boy Scout Law was a bit of a challenge for my brother to memorize. Given time he mastered that as well. He was to recite the oath and law before his Scoutmaster and a few other members of the troop before being able to achieve the rank of Tenderfoot. He worked hard throughout to achieve his badges, symbols of his accomplishment in such areas as cooking, edible plants, and first aid. But I remember the one key thought my mother always drove home with him was to *Be Prepared*. It took a village sometimes to get the knapsack packed for the weekend camping trips, but he was determined to *Be Prepared*.

I think the holiday marketing industry must be largely comprised of former Boy Scouts. Once again we find ourselves at that time of year when Christmas overrides and surpasses all else. As well it should, but not now.

The season of Advent is upon us. Every year I climb upon my soapbox and rant, all to no avail. I struggle with knowing that there are certain things I have no control over.

So this year I have made a decision. When I go out to do my Christmas shopping (at the appropriate time) I am going to do my best to see the Christian, scriptural significance in their festive, generic symbols.

Silver and gold stars are a favorite holiday décor in the public venues. Instead of being taken in by all the glitz, or being like the majority and ignoring them altogether, I'm going to remember the true meaning of the star. It was when I was teaching in my first school. The students would bring in Christmas cards from the previous year saved by their parents. We separate the front of the card and discard the rest. We would trace a circle onto the back side and cut each one out. The circle would capture an attractive portion of the Christmas card. This all had to be done very carefully because every circle had to be the same size. We were going to make Advent stars; they are quite lovely when done carefully and correctly, and depending on the size of the circle, the stars could be used in a variety of ways.

The festivity continues throughout with gigantic candy canes strung hither and yon throughout the stores. It was in the Pre-K Room where I learned the twofold Christian significance of the candy cane.

The white of the candy cane represents the purity of Jesus Christ and the red stripes are for the blood he shed when he died on the cross. The peppermint flavor represents the hyssop plant a plant in the mint family widely referenced in scripture. Additionally, the candy takes the shape of a shepherd's crook, representing the humble shepherds who were first to worship the newborn Christ.

But wait; here's the really fun part. If you turn it upside down the "J" stands for Jesus!! That's the part the four year olds loved the most!!

So, I recall the cold Friday afternoon when I went to purchase my favorite hot tea beverage dispensed by the nationally acclaimed coffee chain. There seems to be one at every corner, or at least easily accessed at every red light here in greater Dover. It was a brisk cold day and I was looking forward to the cup acting as a warming agent for my hands. I received my much anticipated warm beverage from the barista and saw the word "Joy" written all over the cup. I realize joy is a generic term and won't offend anyone in particular, but my question is why would anyone be offended by Merry Christmas written on the side of a cup? It's Christmas for heavens' sakes!! Well anyway this is my thought the next time I go to get my tea; the biblical definition of joy says that joy is a feeling of good pleasure and happiness that is dependent on who Jesus is rather than on who we are or what is happening around us. **Joy comes from the Holy Spirit, abiding in God's presence and from hope in His word.** HAH! I'm quite sure that's what the marketing geniuses were going for.

Maybe it's just me, but are you seeing more Advent calendars recently in the stores? I see them practically everywhere. What has caused a recent surge in popularity? My theory is that with each day of Advent people are buying small gifts to give as the days before Christmas are counted down.

What is the meaning behind an Advent calendar? Advent, (meaning "arrival or coming") in the Christian church calendar, the period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. But it too has become so secularized! In some cases it has been reduced to a wooden box with numbered doors. Behind each door is a small shelf perfectly designed for the placement of a small gift. No scripture --- no tiny pictures representing the season of waiting. This year you might find a Star Wars themed Advent calendar on the shelves. It's out there. Will someone explain that to me?

This year I say let's jump on the Boy Scout wagon and be prepared! Prepare our hearts for the coming of the sweet Baby Jesus, soon to be born in a humble manger.

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

Matthew 3:1

An Immaculate Beginning. The Season of Advent also is home to another beginning: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (December 8) in the womb of St. Ann. The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is the only universal solemnity that lands fully within the Season of Advent. Is that significant? Yes, it is, and here's why: The Birth of Jesus Christ (God-in-the-flesh) identifies Christ as the first born of the new creation. The new creation is the time of man's redemption by way of the coming of the Messiah — the Word-made-flesh— into our world for “us men and for our salvation” (as per the Nicene Creed).

What's Up Doctrine. The coming of Christ and His being born into the world, in a grand sense, didn't just begin with Mary saying “yes” to God at the Annunciation (celebrated on March 25), but rather traces back to the Immaculate Conception (December 8), with Mary's being conceived in the womb of St. Ann. The Immaculate Conception is the doctrine that God preserved the Virgin Mary from the taint of original sin from the moment she was conceived, making her the “Singular Vessel of Devotion” and “New Eve” from whom salvation would be born into this world. Thus Advent, the beginning of the new Church year, normed by the beginning of the call of the first Apostle, also gives home to beginnings of the new creation and the beginning of our salvation bound up in the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The Most Important Beginning. All good things come to an end, so the saying goes. But the corollary to that statement is that all good things also come from a beginning. And this Season of Advent is all about beginnings: beginnings, whether related to Mary or St. Andrew or salvation history, that see their fulfillment in the birth of Christ on December 25, when Christ comes into the world. Our faith is built on the person of Jesus Christ, our salvation is built on his love for us and his salvific actions, and our redemption began when God-became-man on that first Christmas all those years, when on that “night Divine” God touched mankind in the most profound manner. Advent is the Season that allows us time to prepare, ponder, and express penitence, as we await that moment, that new beginning.

The Waiting. The Church in her wisdom tells us not to celebrate Christmas before Christmas, to take some time, beautiful time, reflecting on the coming of Christ, contemplating his second coming at the end of time, and considering all the facets of key moments in salvation history. Advent is the start of the new Church year... and the Good News is that this is only the beginning. And this beginning is related to two other beginning that are worthy of our contemplation: the beginning of the new creation in the Immaculate Conception, and beginning of the Apostolic succession (and our Apostolic Church) in kernel form, with the calling of St. Andrew, whose feast day indicates the start of Advent.

Christ is Coming. So, take time this Advent, to prepare your heart for the coming of Christ. If your faith is strong make this Advent a beginning-time to build-up your faith even more. If your faith has waned, make this Advent a beginning-time to renew your faith. The first words of the first reading from the first Sunday of Advent: “The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and Judah.” Translation: Christ is coming! Be prepared. It is the start of that preparation period.. only the beginning!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor



First Sunday of Advent