



## CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street  
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787  
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street  
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687  
iccmaryl.org



## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

November 29, 2020

1st Sunday of Advent

holycross

### 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-Friday, 12:10 pm also  
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

### ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am-Midnight (temporarily closed)

icc

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm  
Friday 9 am-noon, closed Wednesday

### SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

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

### CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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



### HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

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

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

## RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS

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

**Sacrament of Baptism.** Call the 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.

## THIS WEEK (HC OR ICC)

Check out our websites

[holycrossdover.org](http://holycrossdover.org)

[iccmarylodel.org](http://iccmarylodel.org)

Holy Cross Church is unlocked and available for private prayer. The doors will be open from 7 am to 7 pm Monday through Saturday, and 7 am to 7 pm on Sunday.

Immaculate Conception will be open daily 9 am to 7 pm.

Daily Mass at HC at 8 am Monday through Saturday. Weekend Masses at Holy Cross are Saturday evening 5 pm, Sunday at 7:30 and 9:30 am, 11:30 am Spanish.

Weekend Masses at ICC are Sunday at 8:30 and 11 am, and 1 pm Spanish. Also a 6 pm Mass Thursday and 9 am Mass on Saturday morning, both in Spanish

We are limiting access to the parish offices, so you can buzz when you stop by, or call and leave messages and we will get back to you; or, you can email us. Stay safe and stay healthy.

## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

November 15, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$22,360	\$27,760	(\$5,400)
YTD	\$479,947	\$553,680	(\$73,733)
Needs	\$1,190	\$1,550	(\$360)

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending November 15, 2020

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$2,501
Second	\$165

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. May are still not attending Mass but we still need your support. You can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card.

We will call you back. Thank you for your continued support.

Dear Parishioners,

**Go West Young Man.** As Advent 2020 begins, I want to begin this column with a moment from history: In 1964, Eberhard Fuchs was a resident of the repressive Communist-led city of East Berlin; he decided to seek freedom. The Communists of East Berlin, and indeed of the whole eastern bloc, intentionally inflicted economic backwardness on their people, as a form of control. They likewise repressed religion, free thought and free movement. Mr. Fuchs decided that this was no way to live and no place in which a generation of children should be raised.

**Digging the Scene.** In seeking freedom, Mr. Fuchs gathered together with a group of 35 likeminded Berliners to engage in one of the most unlikely and death defying escapes to freedom of the Cold War period. To escape to the west, Mr. Fuchs and friends worked for some six months digging a tunnel that ran directly under a Communist military installation and then under the dreaded Berlin Wall. Digging and dragging dirt for many months was tedious, and indeed, fearful, for the diggers as they were wary of being found out, arrested and imprisoned. But they continued their work; their patience and endurance paid off. For on October 19, 1964, the completed tunnel, which was 150 yards long, 2 feet wide, 2-1/2 high, led some 57 men, women and children to escape: from captivity to freedom; from oppression to liberty; and from a doomed way of life into the light of hope.

**Only the Beginning.** Today, this Sunday, we start the season of Advent. We start it amidst darkening days of diminished daylight. Amidst the clouds of coronavirus restrictions and anxiety. Amidst all the troubles of the world. But that cloudy, dark and troubled view can-

not, cannot, cannot be our view. As the band Chicago propounded in its 1970 hit, "Beginnings" – "It's only beginning / only just the start." Or perhaps as the Carpenter's crooned: "We've only just begun!" And so, today and for the next 26 days, we don't lament, we look forward. We are called to be like those East Berliners who looked ahead to the joy that awaited them.

**Here Comes the Judge.** In Advent, which begins on the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St. Andrew (November 30), we are to prepare patiently for two distinct events: the coming of Christ at the end of time as our judge, and – more proximately to our lives as Christians – the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior at Christmas; when God became man. We await Christ, but even more so we prepare for Him; and we do so with prayer, reflection, confession, and a recommitment to living our faith.

**The Great Escape.** Now, while we may not have to dig a tunnel, or crawl in the dirt, we nonetheless, just like those freedom fighters of Berlin, seek Christ coming into the world so that we may make an escape from captivity to freedom, from oppression to liberty and from a doomed way of life into the light of hope. Christ is our freedom, our liberty and our hope, in a world that strives to strip those things away. All of this is what forms our Catholic perspective of Advent:

- it is not a time for sales (though there are some great deals at Best Buy),
- it is not a time to celebrate Christmas before Christmas (though in our society waiting patiently seems to be a virtue that absent),
- it is not a time to think about what

*(Continued on page 10)*



## HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini, V. F.  
Rev. Mano Salla

Pastor  
Parochial Vicar

## HC CLERGY

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

Pastor Emeritus  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon  
Deacon

## ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell

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. 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](http://holycrossdover.org/school)

Linda Pollitt

Principal, ext. 111

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## GIVING TREE

This Advent we cannot do our normal Giving Tree activity due to the current COVID situation. We would still like to collect monetary donations in order to help those in need. 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 your donation to Holy Cross through this Giving Tree so we will have funds available to help those in need. Take an envelope from the tree and return it to the Parish Office or put it in the collection basket in the envelope so we know it is to help those in need through the Samaritans.

## NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered members : Eder, Ryker Anthony Dumay and Sheila Pierre-Louis; Robert and Kathleen Wooster; Arturo, Sybilla, Oliver, and Eva Solis; Charles and Aiden Dean, Rosemary Awomokorie; Scott, Nicole, Tripp, and Brynlee Edelblute; Gregory and Bridget Vurgich; Oscar Garcia Limon; Michael, Sarah and Autumn Hanson; Richard, Cristina, Emily, and Olivia Bromley; Lisa, Vincenzo, and Graziella Presutti; Dennis, Norma, Janella Mae Tauchus and Jesse Sapp.

## DOVER COLUMBIETTES

The Dover Auxiliary Columbiettes will be selling poinsettia plants on Saturday, November 28 from 11 am to 3 pm at the K of C Columbian home, 219 Vepco Blvd., Camden. Cost is \$12 for 6" pot with 3-4 blooms or \$16 for 6" pot 5-7 blooms. Colors red, white or pink. Please pre-order by emailing [dpetka1@verizon.net](mailto:dpetka1@verizon.net) by November 18. Also for sale will be a cookbook of favorite recipes for \$5, and assorted masks \$5 each or 3 for \$12.

## READINGS FOR DECEMBER 6 2ND SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 40:1-5, 9-11

God tells the people of Israel to be consoled: they have paid the price of their sins and must now prepare a way for the Lord in a repentant heart.

READING: 2 PETER 3:8-14

We are waiting for God to bring about the long-promised new heavens and new earth. In the meantime, we should live good lives and be at peace.

GOSPEL: MARK 1:1-8

John the Baptist appeared, promising that he was preparing the way for someone greater than himself. He baptized with water but the one whose coming he foretold would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

## ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Even though we are not opening the Adoration Chapel at this time, anyone who was on the normal adoration schedule is encouraged to come into the church to pray during your assigned hour. The church is unlocked from 7 am to 7 pm and Our Lord is waiting for you to come spend time with Him. Our Lord is present in the tabernacle all day long and would love for you to spend time praying. It's a great way to get back into the routine of praying during your scheduled hour.

## MASS BOOK

The Mass Book for 2021 is now open. Due to the current restrictions of people coming to the office and the number of Masses we are currently offering, we must restrict the number of requests. Please see below:

1. We are only opening up the Masses for the months of January, February, March, and April at this time.
2. You can request ONLY 2 Masses at this time and payment of \$10 per Mass is required at the time of the request.
3. You may drop off your request from 9 am through 1 pm Monday through Friday ONLY please.

Please call the office with any questions.

## VOCATIONS

The Church is a pilgrim people, ever on the move toward the fullness of God's kingdom. They are a community of people with a future. "All of us influence the future of ministry in the Church by our own attitudes toward its value and worth," said Fr. John Adamski, a former director of vocations for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Ga.

"I have the opportunity to make sure that the message of the importance of ministry in the Church, both now and in the future, is proclaimed, heard and, hopefully, understood. . . My words and works can encourage all of us to grow even more faithful as ministers for our world."

Some personal definitions of ministry are: somehow bringing the life of Jesus to our brothers and sisters; being the bridge between the Scripture and the elements of our faith, tradition and the reality of people's lives; dispensing something to another, material or spiritual; serving others in the name of Jesus out of love for God and

## MASS INTENTIONS

### NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

<b>30 MONDAY</b> HC 8:00 am	John P. Spillane
<b>1 TUESDAY</b> HC 8:00 am	Belinda M. Roberts
<b>2 WEDNESDAY</b> HC 6:30 am HC 8:00 am	Crispin Hernandez John Deighton
<b>3 THURSDAY</b> HC 8:00 am	Carmela DeLeone
<b>4 FRIDAY</b> HC 8:00 am	Matthew & Mary Seben
<b>5 SATURDAY</b> HC 8 am HC 5 pm	Gerard Dayato Debbie Rolla
<b>6 SUNDAY</b> HC 7:30 am ICC 8:30 am HC 9:30 am HC 11:30 am ICC 11 am ICC 1 pm	Peter & Stella Wisniewski Marge Messner Frank & Catherine Lutz Rina Lewis Richard Brusca, Sr. For the People

Where we do not have 6:30 or 6 pm Masses, the intentions will still be said privately by one of the priests.

(LI = LIVING INTENTION  
DM = DECEASED MEMBERS)

His people.

Take inventory of yourself: How do you bring the Gospel to others? Do you put Jesus' words into action by serving others in His name?

## HOLY CROSS CEMETERY

The pre-Christmas clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 12th ; 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.



## MASS MINISTERS

**PLEASE COME  
FORWARD TO HELP  
DISTRIBUTE  
HOLY COMMUNION AT THE  
MASS YOU ATTEND. THE  
PRIEST WILL INDICATE HOW  
MANY EXTRA-ORDINARY  
MINISTERS ARE  
NEEDED.**

### Lector Schedule for December 2020

#### At Holy Cross:

##### 5 pm Mass (HC)

Dec 5 Judi Coffield  
Dec 12 Lori Christiansen  
Dec 19 Dennis Dixon  
Dec 26 Fran Urick

##### 7:30 am Mass (HC)

Dec 6 John Davis  
Dec 13 Christina Cuffee  
Dec 20 Donna Kilby  
Dec 27 Rose Pritchett

##### 9:30 am Mass (HC)

Dec 6 Sher Crossen  
Dec 13 Tamra Baurys  
Dec 20 Colin Parks  
Dec 27 Mary Louise Sossich

#### At Immaculate Conception:

##### 8:30 am Mass (ICC)

Dec. 6 Diane Smith  
Dec 18 Terry Thompson  
Dec 20 Karen Cairns

##### 11:00 am Mass (ICC)

Dec 6 Laura Schlopitz  
Dec 13 Donna King  
Dec 20 Sharon Tucker

If you wish to be considered to lector at Holy Cross, email Diane at [dbelt@holycrossdover.org](mailto:dbelt@holycrossdover.org) so we can add you to the names of those who have already volunteered to lector. At ICC, please get in touch with Marilyn Dixon at [mdixon@iccmarylodel.org](mailto:mdixon@iccmarylodel.org). Thank you.

## DIRECTORIES (HC)

The Parish Directories are in the Parish Office. If you would like to stop by the office to pick up your copy, please call ahead of time and we will get your copy and have it for you to pick up. Please do not just show up without calling first.

## HOLY CROSS CELEBRATES 150 YRS.

We will place another order on December 7 for our next order of the Anniversary Book. It makes a great gift. So, if you would like to still purchase a copy, please call the office or send in your order form. The is a comprehensive coverage of our parish's history from 1870 to present day parish life is presented in nearly 80 beautifully designed pages. Numerous pictures, some in black & white while others are in vivid color, help to bring the material to life. Major sections include: a short biography of all our pastors since 1870, articles describing many of the important events through the years, and several more in-depth stories covering specific areas of our parish from both a historical and current perspective.

Go to [HolyCrossDover.org](http://HolyCrossDover.org) and look under "Headings" to get a glimpse (teaser) of the book's content and to download the order form. The books are available in three levels of quality and are priced at \$9.00 (Good), \$18.00 (Very Good), and \$25.00 (Best). The variations include softback vs. hardback covers, paper type, and standard vs. premium color. Sample books can be viewed at the parish office receptionist desk. **Our second order will be placed on December 7. Please get your order in by then.**

## 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.

## RETURNING TO MASS

- Attendees must **wear a face covering (mask)**( when inside the Church ; **masks are to be worn over the nose and mouth and must be kept on during the entire Mass.**
- Pews have been marked off to accommodate social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer is available as you enter the church.
- When receiving Holy Communion, please remember to stay socially distanced.** We

encourage you to receive Holy Communion in your hand, but **if you wish to receive on the tongue, you are asked to be at the end of the Communion line.** There will be no Cup distributed at this time.

- As you leave the church, please **do not gather in the Gathering Space** or parking lot.

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Sometimes marriage is like our computers. You learn a lot of information, but with time bugs and viruses can creep in. Things get messy and work slower. When all else fails try rebooting your relationship. Let go of old hurts.

## PARENTING POINTERS

This has been a year of the coronavirus pandemic. What's there to be thankful for? Sometimes

disruptions like these can push us into facing our common humanity and what's really important. Think of one unintended positive consequence that's come out of a hard year.

## RETROUVAILE WEEKEND

Couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 12 - 14, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information or to register please visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.org](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.org) or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Solemnidad de Cristo es el Rey del Universo.** El 22 de noviembre celebramos la Solemnidad de Cristo Rey del Universo. Es una de las fiestas más importantes del calendario litúrgico se concluye el año litúrgico. Fue instituida por el papa Pío XI en 1925 con su encíclica Quas primas ("En primer lugar") era para responder al creciente secularismo. Hoy más que nunca necesitamos que Cristo reine en nuestro mundo, en nuestros corazones para que tengamos paz y esperanza en este año donde estamos viviendo en una pandemia con regulaciones de aislamiento y distanciamiento, disturbios civiles, tensión racial, egocentrismo y la falta de caridad humana sabemos que al sacar a Jesús Rey del Universo" de la vida pública generaría una discordia entre los pueblos y las naciones, e incluso entre las familias. La importancia de Cristo como centro de toda la historia universal. Jesús es el alfa y el omega, el principio y el fin. Recordemos que si queremos que Jesús reine en nuestra vida, en primer lugar tenemos que conocerlo. Tener ese encuentro personal con ÉL. ¡Viva Cristo REY!

El viernes 20 de noviembre a las 7:00 de la noche habrá una clase Pre-bautismal es virtual para participar entre a Zoom y conéctese a: Meeting ID; 447 929 0772 Passcode: BAUTIZO.

**La Santa Misa durante el COVID -19** Las reglas de la pandemia siguen en vigor y todos tenemos la responsabilidad de protegernos y proteger a nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

- Usar mascarillas cuando entra al templo durante todo el tiempo que permanezca adentro la mascarilla debe cubrir la nariz y la boca.
- Desinfectante de manos está disponible al entrar a la iglesia.
- Distanciamiento social, los asientos están marcados para que guarde su distancia.
- Al recibir la Sagrada Comunión, recuerde mantenerse socialmente distanciado. Le recomendamos a recibir la Sagrada Comunión en su mano, pero si desea recibirla en la lengua, se le pide que esté al final de la línea de Comunión. No se distribuirá la Preciosa Sangre de Cristo en este momento.
- Al salir de la iglesia, no se reúna en el Nártex ni en el estacionamiento.
- Lavarnos las manos con frecuencia.
- Si está enfermo quédese en casa. Protegemos nuestra salud y la salud del hermano especialmente los más vulnerables.

**Las Misas dominicales Holy Cross:** Sábado: 5:00 pm Domingo: 7:30 am.-9:30 am - 11:30 am en español. Confesiones Sábado 8:30-10:00 am

**La Inmaculada Concepción:** Domingo 8:30 am, 11:00 am - 1:00 de la tarde en español **jueves** a las 6:00 de la tarde, sábado- 9:00 a 11:00 de la mañana en español. **Confesiones** después de la misa hasta las 11:00 am



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

**Regular Class December 6th 3:30-5:30**

Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office. No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter the building. Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.; Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows: Upstairs Grades 6-8 and sacramental prep 5:15; Down stairs (a teacher or assistant will escort to the ramp):  
**Gr. K-1 5:20 Gr. 2-3 5:25 Gr. 4-5 5:30**  
 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.

## LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH)

December 13th

10:30-12:30 in the Matthew/Mark Room

## CONFIRMATION RETREAT (HC)

Confirmation Retreat will take place on Saturday, December 5. Please let Mrs. Darling know if you are unable to attend. Makeup retreat Saturday, February 6.

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## Holy Cross School Day of Giving

Holy Cross School flourishes because of the support and generosity of alumni, families, friends and many others. Each gift to the #iGiveCatholic Day of Giving on December 1st is an investment in our future. Please give generously this #GivingTuesday to Holy Cross School!

On December 1st, your \$25 gift will help us receive extra funds for our work in preparing and enhancing the personal excellence of each and every student. You can make a difference with your gift to Holy Cross School.



Please visit <https://ncea.igivecatholic.org/organizations/holy-cross-school-61464af9-5331-4e82-98d9-901c6a8b09af> to give.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (ICC)

A Pick up for Unit 2 books has started, please stop by and get your books at hall entrance, your schedule for classes is with your books.

Classes have been grouped by size of class to return on specific weeks.

- Group 1- grades 3, 6, 7 & 8 to be on site start-

ing December 6th.

- Group 2- grades 1, 2,4 & 5 to be on site starting December 13.

If you would prefer to have your children continue to do Religious Education at home please let me know, Alicia Poppiti, Director of Religious Education at 410-482-8939 or send me an email to dre@iccmaryl.org

## 2020/21 FIRST REC/COMMUNION (ICC)

Our fifth session will be on Tuesday, December 1.

## CONFIRMATION 2020-2021 (ICC)

Our next Prep session is Sunday, December 13th, 2:30-5pm in the Parish Hall.

This is for 8th grade and HS youth that are registered to begin Confirmation Prep.

This is for the youth only, no parents or Sponsors at this session.

## FIRST COMMUNION 2020

Retreat is scheduled for Saturday December 5th 9-12 am in the hall for the children only. The Sacrament of First Communion for the Children is scheduled for Saturday, December 12th. Any questions, please call Ms. Alicia at 410-482-8939

## ADVENT RECONCILIATION (HC)

This year, we will offer several times for you to be able to go to Reconciliation in preparation for Christmas. We cannot gather in one Advent Reconciliation Service for the Deanery as we have in the past few years because we have to keep the numbers gathering at one time to a limit.

With that in mind, these are the days we will offer Reconciliation at Holy Cross in December:

Saturday, December 5, 8:30 am — 10:00 am  
 We will have 4 priests available

Saturday, December 12, 8:30 — 10 am  
 We will have 2 priests available

Monday, December 14, 6:00 pm — 8:00 pm  
 We will have 5 priests available

Saturday, December 19, 8:30 am — 10:00 am  
 We will have 5 priests available

Please take advantage of these times to go to Reconciliation and prepare for Christmas. Remember masks must be worn and social distancing must be kept as you are waiting in line.



*"Do you have any fun plans for the Thanksgiving holiday?"*  
*"Well...I'm not sure yet."*  
*"I love Holy Cross School!"*  
*"Tell me that again?"*  
*"I love Holy Cross School." [repeated in a slightly elevated voice]*  
*"That makes me very happy. I do, too!"*

It might sound slightly disjointed, but this was the conversation I had with a first grader as I walked him over to the Nurse's office earlier this week. Skipping a little ahead of me in our walk, he went on to tell me that he was in Miss Hauss' class last year and has always liked recess best of all.

In this season of Thanksgiving, those of us in the Holy Cross School community find that we have much to be grateful for.

We have become accustomed to recognizing the smiling face behind the mask. We have adapted to the distancing and the frequent sanitation breaks built into the daily schedule. We have accepted the need for cancelling events that our students would have found so much enjoyment in. We have recognized the need for recording our prayer services for later viewing in the classrooms. We have made all of these accommodations because we are a strong school community composed of dedicated men, women and children from all walks of life who love Holy Cross School.

And so it is; instead of sending what might be a traditional Thanksgiving message I find the need to appeal for a break with the customary, time-honored and much anticipated festive gathering that marks what has been noted as the most heavily traveled holiday of the calendar year. I find a need to appeal to our families to abide by the cautionary guidelines put forth by public health and local government officials as we plan the season for counting our blessings.

I find a need to appeal to you and strongly encourage you to build in a quarantine period upon your return home if traveling out of state and monitor your children for any change in their overall demeanor. Continue to take temperatures, pass around the hand sanitizer as you would the bowl of mashed potatoes, wash your hands whenever possible, and if you have the slightest concern, have family members tested. There will be an expanded availability of testing sites following the holiday.

Like my first grade friend, we all love HCS and count it as one of our greatest blessings; and we want to be able to continue to attend the school we love every day.

It is on behalf of the faculty and staff of Holy Cross School that I send heartfelt wishes that you had a safe, healthy and joyous Thanksgiving holiday. We are a blessing to one another in the HC community. Let us pray earnestly for one another and for the continued good fortune we have received thus far in this school year.

As we now begin our Advent Season this week, let us continue to be thankful and use this time to be hopeful and prepare for the coming of Jesus.

Ponder and enjoy! Grace and Peace!

### Strength for this Challenging Time

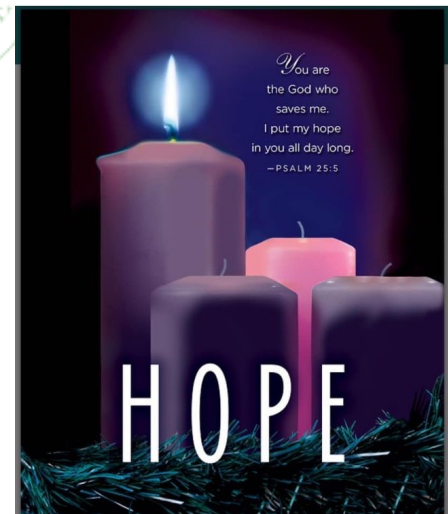
We pray for your love and compassion to abound as we walk through this challenging season.

We ask for wisdom for those who bear the load of making decisions with widespread consequences.

We pray for those who are suffering with sickness and all who are caring for them.

We ask for protection for the elderly and vulnerable to not succumb to the risks of the virus.

As we exercise the good sense that you in your mercy provide, may we also approach each day in faith and peace, trusting in the truth of your goodness and never ending love for us. AMEN



### HOLY CROSS SCHOOL AFTER-CARE PROGRAM HELP NEEDED

The After-Care Program at Holy Cross School provides a safe, nurturing environment, as well as organized activities for students in grades Pre-K thru 8. Activities include homework completion, indoor and outdoor play, arts and crafts, and games.

**Interested parties must have experience working with young children. Background check will be required.**

The hours for this position are from  
2:30-5:30 pm each school day.

**\*\*Our After-Care space is fully aligned with all mandates and restrictions associated with Coronavirus protocol. \*\***  
Please call 302-674-5787, ext. 111 if interested in obtaining additional information.

we will get, but rather about what we can give, what we have given by God.

**Be Prepared.** Let's apply this perspective of Advent, to the busy-ness many of us feel in our lives in these weeks that precede Christmas. I speak of the busyness that brings so much stress that we forget what Christmas really is and what this preparation time of Advent is all about. We all say we want to keep Christ in Christmas, but let's not forget to keep Christ in Advent, too. I think that in preparing for the coming of Christ, we sometimes forget that he is already among us: We are a redeemed people.

**Stop Sign.** In this regard, please remember that those wonderful Christmas feelings that we want to feel: love, joy and peace, cannot flow from that chaotic month of stress society gives us which we call December; a month when Advent seems non-existent and Christmas seems to begin in November. As Christian we are blessed with a season to pause and reflect: Advent. Let's use it. Hit the brakes, folks! We need a little Advent, right this very minute.

**Who's Coming to Town.** To use my Berlin analogy, we simply cannot be at the end of the tunnel while we are still in the process of digging it. And (dare I say) dig this: We need to be aware those gifts of love, joy and peace, those gifts of freedom, liberty and hope, those gifts of the Holy Spirit of God, will not come from Christmas presents, but rather from God's presence. And so, we have to tunnel our way through that tinsel, those lights, parties and songs and be sure, be certain and be admonished not to miss the truth that Jesus Christ is coming to town, the Lord coming to us.

And let me be clear: I am not telling you that there is anything wrong with Christmas songs, ornaments, lights, glitter, tinsel, decorations, parties or even Best Buy gift card in the pastor's mailbox – these are all joyful things pointing to the joyful light of the season: Jesus Christ, coming into the world. The Word being made flesh.

**Big Mac Philosophy.** But remember, these sign and symbols of the season that point to Christmas are not Christmas. These things that point to Christ, are not Christ. Thus, as a philosopher once said, the finger that points to the Moon, is not the Moon, or as this culinary philosopher put it: the drive thru line at McDonald's is not the Big Mac but is a way of getting the Big Mac.

**The Light at the End of the Tunnel.** Yes, Celebrate. Yes, Decorate. Yes, sing, pray and praise God, every day! Fix up your Christmas tree, and string the lights. And if necessary be that voice crying out in the wilderness to people who are unaware. But, be sure to know why you're doing it all. For there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and his name is Jesus Christ. 26 days and counting.

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor

