

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 30, 2025

1st 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

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

icc

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

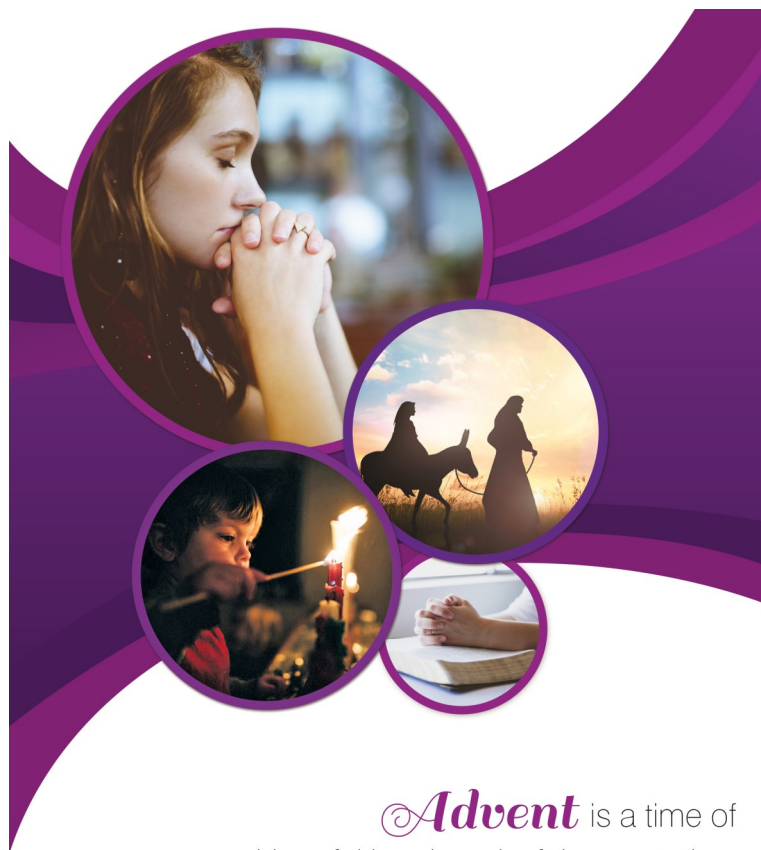
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
Closed Wednesday and Friday

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish



Advent is a time of
Hopeful longing, Joyful expectation,
Prayerful penance and Spiritual
Preparation.

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HOLY DAY SCHEDULE (HC AND ICC)

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

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 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.

Year End Gifts

It's not too early to think about Year End Gifts to the parish. Consider giving your donation to our parish now before you forget to do so at the end of the year.

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WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending November 16, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$28,206	\$27,125	\$1,081
YTD	\$505,486	\$528,873	(\$23,387)
Needs	\$1,196	\$1,738	(\$542)

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending November 16, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,209
Second	\$402

Thank you to all 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.

Dear Parishioners,

An inchworm. Have you ever seen one? And what becomes of them? You don't see a bigger one (or else it wouldn't be an inchworm). So, the question is, does an inchworm live and die as an inchworm, or does it become something else? An inchworm is not a worm at all; it is a form of a caterpillar from the *Geometridae* family, of the insect order *Lepidoptera* (which refers to the order of moths and butterflies). And that little inchworm does not stay an inchworm; that's why you don't see any of them living in retirement communities. That little inchworm undergoes a metamorphosis and becomes a moth.

Beginnings. Ah, that little inchworm moving upon the ground marks the beginning of the fluttering life of the moth that takes to the air. That inchworm, to quote one 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, just as the kernel is the start of popcorn, and just as the acorn is the start of the great oak tree, the inchworm is the beginning of something good.

Happy New Year. And on the matter of beginnings, this Sunday marks the start of the new Church year, as 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. It is the beginning of something good. 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 firstborn 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 the 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 the feast of St. Andrew (November 30). This year, it actually begins smack-dab on November 30. But regarding the practice of Advent beginning on the Sunday closest to the 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. Cunegunda, 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, in fact, quite 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 newborn king, and after he would ascend back to 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."

An Immaculate Beginning. The Season of Advent is also 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 falls 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 firstborn of the new creation. The new

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. Pastor
 Rev. John Enemuo Parochial Vicar
 Rev. John Hynes In Residence

HC CLERGY

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

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
 Sharon Seelig Records Office, 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 PerzaDir. 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

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

DEC 7 - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

The prophet describes both the gifts of the Messiah and the changes his reign will bring.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-9

We welcome each other as Christ has welcomed us.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

John the Baptist calls us to help him prepare the way of the Lord.

GUIDELINES FOR 2025 MASS INTENTIONS

Please be generous when the Retirement Fund for Religious collection is taken in our parish the weekend of December 13/14.

In 2024, Catholics across the Diocese of Wilmington contributed \$129,873.49 to the collection, mostly through their home parishes. From the collection, the Capuchin Poor Clare Nuns; Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary; Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales; and Oblates of St. Francis de Sales received a combined total of \$322,892.56 in financial assistance.

Rising health-care costs and the absence of traditional retirement plans have placed significant financial strain on many religious communities. The Retirement Fund for Religious helps address this need, supporting more than 21,000 religious over the age of 70. In 2024, the average annual cost of care was about \$56,600 per person, with skilled nursing care averaging \$96,000.

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

- Thank you to all who contributed to the pantry for our Thanksgiving baskets.
- We are now in need of hams for our Christmas baskets. They can be left in the freezer at the Samaritan drop off.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, Diocese of Wilmington Delegate for Religious, Sister Ann David Strohming, OSF, will be the guest. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceesofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Condolences and prayers go out to the families who recently lost a loved one:

- Oligario T. Juta
- Deacon Sherman Mitchell
- Camille Ann Weyant
- Marylyn Schaeffler
- Evaristo De Oliverreira

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest baptized member:

- Poppy Jean McQuaide

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newest member of the parish:

- Shawn, Bailey, Oakley and Gunnar Heitzman
- Nestor and Margu Dungo
- Thomas and Lori Kelly

YOU ARE INVITED!

Come and celebrate the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe Thursday , December 11th**
 10:00 PM Prayer of the Holy Rosary
 10:30 PM Re-enactment of the Apparitions of Our Lady at the Tepeyac



11:45PM Mañanitas

Friday, December 12th

7:PM Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
 follow by the “Gran Fiesta in the GYM”

CEMETERY NEWS

The pre-Christmas clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 6th. This includes the removal of Halloween and Thanksgiving decorative items as well as anything in violation of the cemetery’s Rules and Regulations. As always, the use of glass containers/vases is strictly prohibited. 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

MASS INTENTION DECEMBER

1 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Beaugelin Family

2 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Elena B. Rodriguez

3 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Salamone Family

4 THURSDAY

HC 9:00 am Louis and Eleanor Strazzeri

5 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Fred Ernst (LI)

6 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Shane Eric Lausten

HC 5:00 pm Robert and Frances Cassidy

7 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Darrin Conti

ICC 8:30 am Andrea Nagyiski

HC 9:30 am Dorothy Lanaras

ICC 11:00 am Deacon Sherman Mitchell

HC 11:30 am Gerardo F. Chanco

ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Nov 30—Dec 6 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of Ronald Salamone

Dec 30 - Dec 6 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of the people of Holy Cross.

and cooperation in maintaining our sacred grounds. For more information, contact Len Dornberger at 674-5787 x135.

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL INVITES YOU TO JOIN OUR FAITH-FILLED COMMUNITY!

Holy Cross High School is now accepting applications for the 2026–2027 school year. Located in Dover, Delaware, we offer a Classical Catholic education rooted in faith, virtue, and academic excellence. We warmly welcome families to explore our mission and discover how Holy Cross can be a place where your child grows in faith and knowledge. For more information, contact Christina Klaus, Director of Admissions: cmklaus@hchs.org or visit our website at www.hchs.org.

DECEMBER 6/7, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

C. Helwig M. King L. Toto
D. Kaltenbaugh M. Lewandowski C. Barrett

LECTORS

D. Kilby
L. Christiansen

7:30 AM

M. Thompson C. Brown J. Shevock
A. Wyllie J. Chandler S. Shevock

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM

K. Kelly M. Lausten M. Ford
J. Lausten L. Olmstead H. Louissaint

LECTORS

S. Ford
L. Lewandowski

11:30 AM

A. Cisneroa B. Guzman TBD
C. Garcia

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

B. Casey

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

11:00 AM

F. Cristiano

LECTORS

L. Soule



HELP WANTED—WE NEED YOU

We are looking for more volunteers to help us bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound of our parish. Call the Holy Cross Parish Office if interested in this ministry.

We can always use more volunteers to help at Mass as an Altar Server, Extra-Ordinary Minister of Communion, or a Lector. If interested please contact the Parish Office at 3020-674-5787.

ADORATION CHAPEL

Eucharistic adoration is the respect and worship we give to Jesus, who is truly present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a priceless treasure; by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace. As St. Alphonsus Liguori noted, "of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us." [CCC 1418]

You don't need a time if you cannot make a commitment. Please feel free to come in and sit with our Lord, when you can.

Contact John Murphy 302-233-1779 or jkm2015@verizon.net for any of the times available listed below:
Sunday 7-8am, 5-6pm, 8-9pm
Friday 6-7am
Saturday 12-1pm, 1-2pm, 8-9pm

REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE (2026 PROGRAMS)

In 2026, the programs will be held February 6-8, July 31 - August 2, and October 21-23, at the Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit MarriageHeldDeVal.org or call 215-766-3944. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Tens of thousands of 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 and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties, or crises.

FROM THE DIALOG

To our readers and advertisers. The Dialog publishes two more editions in 2025. The only edition in December publishes Dec. 12. The Dialog will not publish a print edition Dec. 26. As always, we will be regularly updating our website, TheDialog.org, on daily basis through the holiday season. The Dialog returns to print Friday, Jan. 9, 2026.

- **Adviento:** Hoy es el Primer Domingo de Adviento y el Año Nuevo en el calendario Liturgico del este 30 de noviembre En la liturgia de la Iglesia, cada ciclo tiene su propia secuencia de lecturas del Antiguo y Nuevo Testamento, de modo que la distribución de textos bíblicos a lo largo de tres años, brinda a los fieles una visión integral de toda la historia de la salvación.empezaremos nuevamente con el Ciclo A.la primera lectura se toma de los Profetas (isaías), la segunda lectura de una carta apostólica y el Evangelio de MateoCon este fin, el rito romano organiza las lecturas del evangelio que se completarán cada tres años, de esta manera:– En el año “A”, el Evangelio de San Mateo.– En el año “B”, el Evangelio de San Marcos.– En el año “C”, el Evangelio de San Lucas. ¿Y el Evangelio de San Juan? Está reservado para ocasiones especiales, principalmente para fiestas grandes y solemnidades, con énfasis en la Semana Santa.
- **Celebraciones Guadalupanas:** Ya se acerca nuestra Gran celebracion en honor de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, que necesitamos muchos voluntarios. Este año volveremos a hacer la dramatizacion de las Apariciones Guadalupanas. Si tiene ninos entre 3- 6 años para que participen como indigenas. Necesitamos voluntario para hacer el Rosario del largo y grande, a adornar y a arreglar y la limpieza del templo y el Gimnacio y si desea ser voluntario por favor anotese con la Sra. Arline Dosman o con cualquier miembro de la Junta Directiva. Los mares se estara ensayando para las mañanitas en nuestra parroquia de la Imaculada Concepcion.
- **POSADAS:** Todas ya estan tomadas unase a la Posada de la iglesia o una familia si desea contribuir ¿Qué son las Posadas?Es la Novena de Navidad. Las posadas navideñas esn una tradición popular hispana que se celebra durante los nueve días previos a la Navidad, del 16 al 24 de diciembre. Representan la búsqueda de María y José de un lugar para el nacimiento de Jesús, recreando el pasaje bíblico de su peregrinación a Belén. A menudo los pequenos se disfrazan de María y José algunos pastorcitos o angeles van cada noche,visitan una familia que ha pedido posada en su casas cantando villancicos para pedir alojamiento y, una vez que se les concede, entran y se reza el santo Rosario, se canta ycelebran con comida, música y piñatas. Ayuda a preparar el corazón para la Natividad del Señor. En la última parte del Adviento, esperamos con alegría su Primera Venida, en Belén. Una buena forma de hacerlo es meditar el Santo Rosario las antífonas de Adviento que se usan en la Misa, porque cada una evoca un título mesiánico de Cristo del Antiguo Testamento.
- **Foro Cristiano :** El Foro Cristiano, todos los viernes de 6:00pm a 8:00pm en el ELC segundo piso.El tema de este año es Symbolon “ LA FE DE LA IGLESIA”. Esta basado en el Credo.y lo que creemos como Catolicos.Quedan todos invitados a conocer y a profundizar mas en su Fe catolica.
- **Se Necesitan ministros:** Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como Catequista, Lector, ministerio de Música, Hospitalidad,, ministros EMC, Arte y Ambientación. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118
- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ:** Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia... (P. Gerald Ftizgerald, SP) Únase al Apostolado de las Siete Hermanas en Holy Cross para ofrecer: Una hora santa, Por un sacerdote; Cada semana, Un corazón de oración. Contacto: Delizabeth Díaz-Martínez correo electrónico 7sistersapostolate2023@gmail.com



ICC

Primera Reconciliación Prep:

Session # 6- Martes, Diciembre 9, 6:30-7:30pm, Salon Parroquial

Por favor comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 o email to dre@iccmaryl.org para cualquier pregunta.

Confirmación Prep:

Session #3- Sunday, December 14, 3-5:30pm , Salon Parroquial

OCIA: Domingos 5:30 PM -7:15 PM en La Oficina Parroquial, Llámanos y aprenda nuestra Fe.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Next Class:

December 2nd (Grades Kindergarten – 4th grade) or December 3 (Grades 5-8 and Sacramental Prep)

All Classes in the Elementary Building from 6:00pm-7:30pm (please arrive between 5:45pm and 5:50pm so classes may begin on time.

If you still need to register, or have any questions please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

December classes are 12/7 and 12/21

We gather after 9:30am Mass in the Matthew/Mark room. Class will begin at 11:00am and will last until approximately 1:00pm.

Contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122 for further information.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

"Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church" will take a pause until 1/6/2026.

During this second week of Advent, we will reflect on our lives and focus on becoming better -versions-of-ourselves in preparation for Jesus' coming. We remember the journey Joseph and Mary took from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Deacon Bob's Adult Ed Class is every Tuesday at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C

If you have any questions or would like to order the workbook set, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Class: Next class is Sunday, December 7 from 5-6:30 pm in the Parish Hall or Wednesday, December 10 from 6-7:30 pm in the Matthew Mark room. Parents are welcome to join us for this class.

Cookie Baking: Please join us on Saturday, December 6 from 9 am to noon in the school cafeteria for cookie baking. All junior high students and high school students are welcome to join us. Please bring a rolling pin if you have one.

Youth Group: Please come help serve at 8 pm on Friday, December 12 at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta in the school gymnasium.

Our next youth group meeting will be on Sunday, December 14 from 6:45 - 8 pm in the Luke Room of the ELC building. We will have a small white elephant gift exchange and games and food.

CHECK OUT THESE LINKS:

- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/luke-in-50-days-announcement>
- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/riy-signup>
- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>



In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

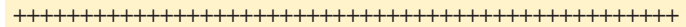
- <https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>



In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

- <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/bi-y-espanol-registration>



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

No Religious Education on Sunday, November 30th for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Classes resume on December 7th.

First Reconciliation Prep:

Session #6– December 9,, 6:30-7:30pm, Parish Hall

Confirmation Prep:

Session #3- Sunday, December 14, 3-5:30pm in Parish Hall

OCIA: Monday nights in Parish Office from 5:30-7:15pm, Please call and join us.

Dear Parishioners,

This past week of school was a very short one for our students and staff. Students joined us for a full day on Monday and a half day on Tuesday before beginning their Thanksgiving break. Both days were peaceful and reflective, providing a gentle transition into the holiday weekend.

During our final lunch period of the week, our students participated in a special prayer service held in the cafeteria. Each student received a prayer of Thanksgiving and was invited to reflect on the many blessings present in their lives. It was truly moving to witness our school community gathered together in prayer after sharing their Thanksgiving meal at school. Students, teachers, and staff paused in gratitude, lifting their hearts to God and recognizing the gifts that surround them each day. The students took their Thanksgiving prayer home and were encouraged to share it with their families during their holiday celebrations. We extend our appreciation to our religion committee for preparing the prayer service and creating the prayer cards that helped make this moment so meaningful.

After dismissal on Tuesday, teachers remained on campus to work on grading and to participate in thoughtful conversations with their colleagues. They reflected on the progress of the year, revisited their goals for the classroom, and discussed ways to continue bringing the mission of Holy Cross to life. These moments of collaboration and professional growth strengthen our community and help us remain united in our shared purpose.

Wednesday provided a well deserved day of rest for both students and staff. We hope everyone was able to spend time with loved ones, relax, and enjoy the blessings of a quiet day.

Thursday marked the celebration of Thanksgiving. As a school, we wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to our entire Holy Cross community. We are profoundly blessed to share the gift of Catholic education each day. Our teachers serve with dedication, passion, and a deep love for the mission of Jesus Christ. Their commitment forms the heart of our school. We are also deeply thankful for our families, who choose Catholic education for their children. We recognize the sacrifice and trust that come with this choice, and we are grateful for the partnership we share. We are thankful as well for our students, who come to school ready to learn and eager to live out the Gospel message. Their enthusiasm and joy bring life to our community. Finally, we thank our parish community for their support and for the strong and faith filled relationships that unite us.

As we enter the Advent Season, our hearts turn toward preparing for the coming of Christ. We seek to embrace this sacred time with purpose and reflection. In our school, we guide students in understanding the rich symbols of Advent, including the wreath and its candles, and we help them prepare spiritually through intentional prayer and thoughtful actions. We will begin the season with an Advent prayer service that introduces students to the meaning and beauty of this time of preparation. We look forward to the spiritual experiences ahead and to continuing to nurture the faith of our students.

God Bless,

Mrs. O'Mara

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, marked by the beginning of the call of the first Apostle, also gives home to the 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 ago, 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 stay watchful, awaiting that moment, that new beginning — that coming of Christ.

Living on a Prayer. Or perhaps this idea is more simply expressed to us in the opening prayer (the collect) for the first Monday of Advent. That prayer says:

Keep us alert, we pray, O Lord our God, as we await the advent of Christ your Son, so that, when he comes and knocks, he may find us watchful in prayer and exultant in his praise. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.

The Waiting. With the Season of Advent, the Church, in her wisdom, commends us not to celebrate Christmas before Christmas, but rather to take some time, a beautiful time, to reflect on the coming of Christ, to contemplate His second coming at the end of time, and to consider 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, as previously stated, is related to two other beginnings that are worthy of our contemplation: the beginning of the new creation in the Immaculate Conception, and the beginning of the Apostolic succession (and our Apostolic Church), with the calling of St. Andrew, whose feast day reckons 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 time to build on your faith even further. If your faith has waned, make this Advent a beginning time to renew your faith. In this regard, we hear these words from the Gospel on this First Sunday of Advent: "Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come... at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come" Translation: Christ is coming! Be prepared.

The opening prayer for this First Sunday of Advent reminds us of how we should be prepared for the coming of our Lord, and how we should run to meet him. The prayer reads in part:

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.

Get Ready! The Church is telling us what a hit song by The Impressions from 1965 once told us, "People get ready!" And thus, the Church blesses us with a season of waiting, of preparation — of Advent! A time to get ready, a time for waiting. However, we must always be mindful of and remember that in Advent, we are not waiting for the sake of waiting — rather, we are waiting for something wonderful, something amazing, something salvific. It is now the start of that waiting period. And it is only the beginning!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini, Pastor