



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 6, 2022

32nd Sunday Ordinary Time

holy cross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

School Year, Monday-Friday, 8 am-3:30 pm
Summer, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-1 pm

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil, 5 pm
Sunday, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 am Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, 8 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

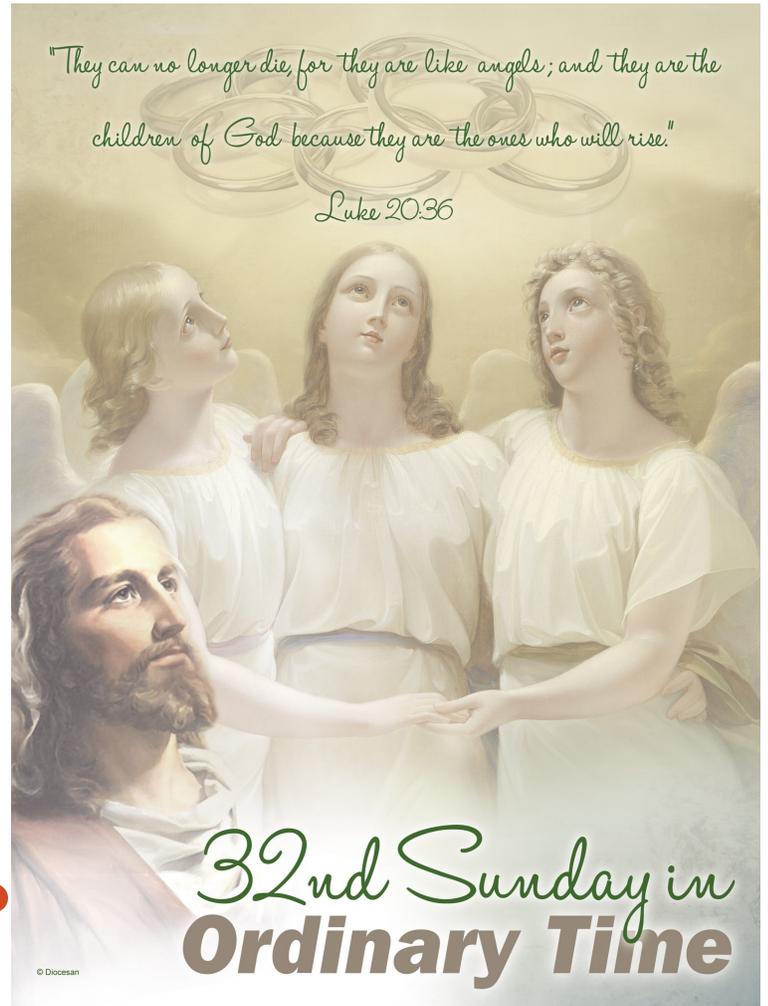
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
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 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 FOR 2023

The Mass Book for 2023 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 (8:15 on Wednesdays), 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.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending October 23, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$25,928	\$27,300	(\$1,372)
YTD	\$415,816	\$457,200	(\$41,384)
Needs	\$1,972	\$1,604	\$368

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending October 23, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$2,952
Second Collection	\$350

Dear Parishioners,

As I write this, the Phillies are in the midst of the World Series... so baseball is on my mind. Thus, let me start this column on a baseball-tinged theme. Picture it, 1973, the American League of Major League Baseball adopted rule 6.10, commonly called the "designated hitter rule." This rule allows a hitter to take the place of the pitcher in the batting line up. Thus, in the American League, the pitchers never have to step up to plate. This rule change put a fundamental change on the game of baseball. A principal of the game prior to this change was that *every* player had to step up to the plate and face the other team, including the pitcher. That was the game: Everyone on both sides got to play offense at the plate and swing that bat and hit the ball. So, when this rule went into effect the cry of baseball purists went out: "Heresy! This is wrong!" The cry was heard by the National League which, rightly, did not adopt this rule, as it was deemed (as I, too, deem it) a heresy!

Heresy in the 21st Century. The Church at times has to cry out "heresy" when a false teaching that denies truth or some tenet of the faith is annunciated. But when we speak of heresy, many people think of early times in Church history, when heresy (that is, a false teaching) was a problem; they usually don't think of today. But that's not quite right. You see, heresies are, unfortunately, still alive and well in our world today. Many of these heresies are rehashes of old ones, but remain false teachings that lead us away from Christ and his Church, and thus, salvation. In this column, I want to present four heresies that the Church has dealt with in the past and show the 21st century face of these heresies as they are found in our world today.

1. Indifferentism: It Does Matter! This is a heresy that is quite prevalent in today's world – it is oft reinforced by media and in films. Indifferentism puts forth the idea that one religion is just the same as another. First dubbed "indifferentism" by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832, it is indeed a false teaching. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: *"For it is through Christ's Catholic Church alone, which is the universal help toward salvation, that the fullness of the means of salvation can be obtained."* (CCC 816). In this same regard, a document entitled *Dominus Iesus* (written in 2000 by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and approved by Pope John Paul II) states, *"[i]t would be contrary to the faith to consider the Church as one way of salvation alongside those constituted by the other religions."* This, of course doesn't mean that non-Catholics or non-Christian don't have access to the means of salvation, but it does mean that those means of salvation find

their fullness in the Church, and, ultimately, through Christ.

Indifferentism Today: Misunderstanding Religion. So why do folks say, "One religion is the same as another"? Simple: Because many people think that a religion is some sort of community organization – that is, a group that does nice things for other people. They don't see religion as being the practice of belief, but just something people join – like the 4H Club, or Rotary. Pope Francis, back in 2013, railed against this, saying that all too often people view the Church as some "compassionate NGO" (Non-Governmental Organization). In fact, religion is the practice of one's belief. Our belief is that the fullness of the truth subsists in the Catholic Church and that the Church possesses the fullness of the means of salvation. As Catholics we believe this; we are not indifferent. Thus, another religion can't make these claims. The Catholic faith that we believe and hold true is certain and distinct from any other faith: Thus, one religion (Catholic) is not just like another religion.

2. Arianism: Creature Features! Arius was a 2nd and 3rd century priest who held that Jesus Christ was merely a creature created by God, just as we are. That he was not Divine, but human. He asserted that the Son (Jesus Christ) was the first and greatest creature, but a creature nonetheless. He said that the Son of God was created, not begotten, by the Father and was created in time (our time) and not eternal. He saw Jesus basically as a man who was good moral teacher with a special role imputed to him by God at his Baptism. This false teaching, given the name Arianism (after its founder), was ultimately condemned at the Council of Nicea which asserted that God the Son, the second person of the Blessed Trinity, was incarnate (came in the flesh) and was fully Divine and fully human in his nature, Divine in his person, and consubstantial (of the same substance) of the Father.

Arianism Today: The Good Guy Heresy. But you may ask, where do we see Arianism today? This was killed off in the 4-5th centuries, right? In a religious realm, the Jehovah's Witness today still carry this view forward, holding that Christ is a created being; specifically that he is St. Michael the Archangel. But more damaging to the faithful, however is the cultural gazing upon Jesus as a "good guy" or a "great role model." Peo-

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green	Receptionist, ext. 110
Diane Belt	Assistant to the Pastor, ext. 113
Kenneth Trojan	Business Manager, ext. 119
Michele Dornberger	Records/Asst. Bus. Mgr., ext. 116
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry, ext. 118
Tammy Korosec	CRE Religious Ed, ext 122
Linda Darling	Youth Ministry, ext. 123
Justin Wurzel	Maintenance Director
Len Dornberger	Cemetery Administrator, ext. 135
Michael Perza	Dir. of Music Ministry, 302 698 9302

MAILING ADDRESS

Church of the Holy Cross
631 S. State St.
Dover, DE 19901

ICC STAFF

Parish Office	410 482 7687
Marilyn Dixon	Office Manager
Alicia Poppiti	DRE Religious Ed.
Susan Venezia	Bookkeeper
Arline Dosman	Dir. of Hispanic Ministry

MAILING ADDRESS

Immaculate Conception Church
P. O. Box 399
Marydel, MD 21649-0399

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

Catholic Education Pre-K3 to Grade 8
302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org/school

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

WEDNESDAY MASS TIME TO CHANGE (HC)

Beginning on Wednesday, November 16, the Wednesday morning Mass will be held at

8:15 am. We are switching to this new time on **Wednesdays only** to allow the school children to attend the morning Mass on Wednesdays. All other weekday morning Masses will remain at 8 am.

SAVE THE DATE:

The Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass will be held on World Marriage Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 1 pm at Saint Margaret of Scotland Church in Newark, Delaware. The Mass coincides with National Marriage Week, February 7 through 12. For more information, please contact the Office for Marriage and Family Life 302-295-0657 or egaus@cdow.org

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Soup and Silent Auction
Sunday Nov. 20, 2022
9:30 AM to 12:15 PM
Soups \$5.00 per container
Tamales 2 for \$5.00
\$1 Donuts and Coffee for Early Birds

SODALITY (HC)

The next Sodality meeting will take place on Sunday, November 13, at 12:30 pm on the second floor of the Early Learning Center. New members are always welcome. Stop by to see what we have to offer.

33RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (NOV 13)

FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:19-20

Christ fulfils the promise of the prophet Malachi, who tells us that those who remain close to God will be rewarded for their faithfulness.

SECOND READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-12

St. Paul invites the church at Thessalonica to imitate his example of humble service to others.

GOSPEL: LUKE 21:5-19

The saints and martyrs witness to the faithfulness of God to rescue their lives and protect them in adversity, even in death.

SAMARITANS

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and our Samaritans will be making Thanksgiving baskets for those in need. We could use frozen turkeys that can be dropped off in the freezer at the Samaritan door. We could also use canned vegetables, jello, instant mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, applesauce, and other items to assist in making up these basket. Of course, we can always use soups, peanut butter and jelly.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! Get away for an intimate weekend – no group sharing required. We would love more couples to attend the next weekend, November 11-13, 2022 at the Brighton Suites in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For information or to register, visit our website <http://www.wvme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

NEW YORK TENORS ARE COMING TO WILMINGTON!

The Diocese of Wilmington will present The Magic of Christmas with the world-famous New York Tenors at 4 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11, at Salesianum High School in Wilmington. Event proceeds will support the work of Catholic Charities.

The public is invited to experience memorable music, moments and magic through the vocal artistry of the New York Tenors, Andy Cooney, Daniel Rodriguez and Christopher Macchio, as they take audiences on a truly entertaining holiday journey.

A meet-and-greet with Wilmington's Bishop William E. Koenig and the New York Tenors will be held after the show. For show tickets, sponsorship information, and meet-and-greet tickets, contact Andrea Rotsch at 302-573-3120 or arotsch@cdow.org. Tickets may be purchased online at WilmingtonDiocese.simplertix.com.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

"That the dead will rise...for to God all are alive." (Luke 20: 38) Thinking of your own or your beloved's death can be scary and depressing – but nobody gets out of this life alive! Take a sacred moment to share with each other your fears and hopes for your

MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER

7 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Sylvia Crews
8 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Jackie Manns
9 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Clara Dill
10 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Grace & Louis Jara
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
11 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Josephine Nardone
12 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Frances and Robert Ives
HC 5 pm	Margie Galli
13 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Jean Howard
ICC 8:30 am	Devin & Smith Families
HC 9:30 am	Marty Martel
ICC 11 am	Elsie Carrow
HC 11:30 am	Frances Greenstein (LI)
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

own deaths.

PARENT POINTERS

November is Adoption month. Have you ever considered adopting or becoming a foster parent? This may not be your call but you might still mentor a child who needs a little more attention. Remember, Jesus was a foster child.

**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.

HOLY CROSS NOV 12/13, 2022

EMHC		SERVERS	
5:00 PM	J. Bieker	M. Macleish	A. Torbert
	M. Cacesse	J. Salamone	B. Torbert C. Torbert
LECTORS			
L. Christiansen J. Davis			
7:30 AM	C. Brown	J. Clendaniel	A. Costa
	J. Chandler	M. Thompson	E. Costa M. Costa
LECTORS			
J. Davis			
9:30 AM	P. Ford	F. Hanlin	K. Fernandez
	S. Ford	C. Jones	J. Seeney R. Willemin
LECTORS			
M. Sherlock M. Sossich			
11:30 AM	C. Garcia	A. Luna	K. Espinosa
	B. Guzman		C. Geronimo
LECTORS			
A. Luna			
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION			
8:30 AM	A. Smith		
	LECTORS		
K. Cairns			
11:00 AM	M. Soule		
	LECTORS		
P. Meyer			
1:00 PM	To be determined		

If you missed the training and would like to still help with being an EMHC to the sick and homebound or at Mass, please call the Parish Office so we can start preparing for another training session.

Lectors are also needed. Call the Parish Office if interested in this ministry. Thank you.

Altar servers are always needed, too. Call the Parish Office and we can start our list for the next training session.

We appreciate all those who volunteer to help out in these various ministries!!

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

Can you spare an hour to spend with Jesus? Our Adoration Chapel is open from 5 am to 9 pm Monday through Sunday. We have openings where you can spend quality time with Our Lord. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you.

SUNDAY	6 am, 4 pm, 5 pm, 8 pm
TUESDAY	6 am, 12 Noon, 8 pm
FRIDAY	1 pm
SATURDAY	12 pm, 1 pm, 2 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

SWITCH TO eGIVING (HC)

Looking for a good stewardship habit? Try eGiving – it streamlines your generosity and lets you do even more to help Church of the Holy Cross grow our ministries that share the Good News of God’s love. You can make the switch today! Signing up is easy from your computer, smartphone or tablet, and you can set up a recurring donation or make a one-time gift. Sign up today by visiting Faith.Direct/DE251. ‘Enroll’ to (Text-to-Give Number).

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of those who recently passed:

- Maureen Zimmerman
- Juan P. Lopez
- Donald G Poliquin
- Luiz Rocha
- Edith Craig
- Marie Kozel

NEWLY BAPTIZED (HC)

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- Aurora Jade Graham
- Aiden Harrison Graham
- Paula Elisa Mondregon-Morales

FOOTPRINTS

The Footprints Ministry, the Diocesan Miscarriage Ministry, offers resources for families on their journey after the loss of their unborn child, whether it was very recently or many years ago. We aid mothers, fathers, couples, and families with support, education, and compassion by providing books, guidance, and resources on the website www.cdown.org.

- El Foro Cristiano todos los viernes de 6:00 – 8:00 de la tarde en el salón Mateo/Marcos. hasta el 2 de junio tendremos la formación es para toda la familia. Este año el curso será sobre Signos, símbolos, sacramentos y sacramentales.
- Las parroquias gemelas de la Inmaculada Concepción y la Santa Cruz invitan al gran Retiro de Adviento “ Preparemos el Camino al Señor” El facilitador será el renombrado escritor y predicador Salvador Gómez el sábado, 12 de noviembre de 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM en el Gimnasio de la parroquia de la Santa Cruz. 631 South State St. Dover DE 19901
- Donación es de \$50.00 incluyendo el almuerzo. Tendremos cuidado de niños. Ya están disponibles los boletos para Asistir al Retiro de Adviento para obtener su boleto hable con los líderes de las parroquias.
- Ministerio de Arte y Ambientación invita a que te una a ellos. Dios nos ha dado a cada uno talentos para que lo usemos al su mayor gloria y para el bien común, donar tu tiempo y ayudar a tu parroquia es algo gratificante y descubrirás todos los talentos que el Señor te ha dado, compartirás momentos agradables, aprenderás del otro y enseñaras a otros, es importante recordar y necesario que sigas el horario y directrices del Ministerio de Arte y Ambientación que es para decorar, limpiar, y ambientar nuestro templo para las celebraciones litúrgicas. Anótese con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- Si usted desea colaborar con algo o desea participar con las celebraciones en honor a la virgen de Guadalupe anótese o hable con las Sras., Marta Espinosa, Mireya Rodríguez, Lina Mejía o llame a la oficina parroquial. El día domingo, 11 de diciembre de 10 de la noche en adelante tendremos las mañanitas y el Santo Rosario Infantil. El día lunes, 12 la santa Misa a las 7:00 de la noche, seguida por la procesión al gimnasio donde

tendremos la cena y serenatas a nuestra virgen de Guadalupe. Póngalo en su calendario y celebremos a nuestra Madre.

- Es muy importante inscribir a sus hijos a tiempo para la Educación Religiosa. Las Inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa y Preparación para la Confirmación (HC - 2023) Las aplicaciones para inscribirse para la Preparación para la Confirmación 2023 se pueden encontrar en el sitio web de la parroquia en holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christianformation/k-8-formation. Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, no dude en comunicarse con Tammy Korosec en tkorosec@holycrossdover.org o llame al (302) 674-5787 X 122
- 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

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA ICC

Las Clases de Educación Religiosa son los domingos por la mañana, continuaran hasta el 7 de mayo, de 9:40 a 10:50 a.m. Póngase en contacto con Alicia Poppiti @ 410-482-8939 o dre@iccmaryl.org para obtener más información. Las inscripciones ya están disponibles.

PRIMERA RECONCILIACION: Cuarta Sesión para niños es el martes 1 de noviembre, a las 6:30pm en el salón, la clase termina a las 7:30pm . Se su hijo no está inscrito por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti

CONFIRMACION DE JOVENES: Primera Sesión es hoy domingo, 20 de Noviembre . a las 2:30pm en el salón, si su hijo no está inscrito comuníquese con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti.

Inscríbase para ir a Mount 2000 cupo es limitado.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next class is 11/6/22 at 3:00—5:00 pm.
Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Registration forms available at <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation>
If you have any questions contact Tammy Korosec Early L either 302-674-5787 x122 or tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Next class November 6 at 10:30 am in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Early Learning Center.
Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF? Contact Tammy Korosec.

ADULT FORMATION (HC) ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES (HC)

Advent is right around the corner! Holy Cross is offering the class Advent: Preparing for Christ Cycle A. Classes will be held on Tuesdays at 9:00am or 7:00pm beginning November 29th in the Matthew/Mark Room in the Parish Office. The class is free, there will not be a workbook provided.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR (ONLINE)

In English: Father Mike Schmitz



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

In Spanish: Fray Sergio Serrano



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

CONFIRMATION AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Class:
Sunday, Nov. 6 at 3:30-5 pm
Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 6-7:30 pm

Confirmation Retreat:

Last call for permission slips for retreat - reminder November 11/12 - we will meet at Holy Cross at 5 pm on November 11 in the Parish Hall.

MOUNT 2000:

This retreat for high school teens will take place Feb. 3-5 at Mt. St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, MD. Please join us for a great weekend put on by the seminarians at Mount. Cost is \$100 per person if you register by October 31. Please contact Linda Darling for the link to register. ldarling@holycrossdover.org

Catholic Heart Work Camp:

We will be traveling to Drexel Hill, PA this coming June 25-30, 2023. First Come-First Going. Please let Linda Darling know your desire to attend to reserve your spot. 12th grade welcome to join us next summer.

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Religious Education classes run Sunday mornings until May 7th, 9:40am-10:50am. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Alicia Poppiti @410-482-8939 or dre@iccmaryladel.org for more information. If you have any difficulty with affording RE, please call Alicia Poppiti, and the office can assist you.

First Reconciliation Immaculate Conception:

Session 4 for children is on Tuesday, November 15th beginning promptly at 6:30pm in the Church Hall, class ends at 7:30pm. If your child is not registered, please contact Alicia Poppiti, 410-482-8939

Youth Confirmation for Immaculate Conception:

Second Session is Sunday, November 20, at 2:30-5pm in the Parish hall. If your youth is not registered, please contact Alicia Poppiti, 410-482-8939.

It was early in the school year when Mrs. Wegemer and I were having a conversation about the possibility of the Pre-K field trip to the local pumpkin patch. Plans have to be made, the bus has to be secured, the venue has to enter us on their schedule, the permission slips have to go out, chaperones have to be planned for....believe me it's a process. During what we once knew as ordinary times, this conversation between Mrs. Wegemer and I might not have been such the necessity, but OT no longer exist. The first question centered on whether we were allowed to even plan the trip remembering the effects of the troubled times brought on by the pandemic. Assuring her that we were free to make plans Mrs. Wegemer said she would start making phone calls and securing forms the very next day. Helping myself to the always available chocolate in Mrs. W's classroom, we parted ways.

A couple of days later I stopped in to check on the pumpkin patch plans. At the first mention Mrs. W. displayed more than just a slight irritation. "I don't think we're going to be able to go!" Grabbing for her notes, and explaining that the first local patch is no longer hosting school groups, and the second option for a pre-k pumpkin picking day was going to cost us a whopping \$9.00 per child just to step off the bus, not to mention an additional fee for each little person to select a small pumpkin, we both found ourselves in agreement that we had to hatch another patch plan. The only other patch was too far away. The bus would be too expensive and how were we going to pay for the pumpkins?? Seeking out the candy jar, squatting down on to one of the little people chairs, I was open to listening to Plan B.

I say! When life gives you lemons....eat candy!

A little over a half trimester later, during which time the leaves on the trees that encircle the church/school property had turned to a lovely display of red and orange, there appeared what looked for all the world like a pumpkin patch on the south end of our field. Was it my imagination or was there actually a pumpkin patch growing behind the ELC? Yes, indeed there truly was! Plan B had been put into action and today was pre-k pumpkin picking day! Walking in such orderly fashion across the still moist ground of the field, each three- and four-year-old selected a personal pumpkin for his or her very own. "Do you like that one?" "Is that the one you want?" "Do you want some help with your pumpkin?" "Let's have everyone line up nicely for a group picture." "Let's place your pumpkin in the wagon carefully." A wagonload later, and before morning recess, there was time for one more picture. Each little one was appropriately placed in front of the lovely fall display designed by the HSA for one more pumpkin picking day picture before it was recess time. What a great morning for our little Crusaders who want to send a great big shout out of thanks to the Batka family for their generous donation of forty spooky size pumpkins for the HCS pumpkin patch.

Putting all the homework aside for the night, and even though my good friend Dexter the Pig decided to sit this one out, we were all about the fun on Trunk or Treat Night! Scheduled to kick-off at five, the line was a long one in front of the gym and winding down the sidewalk. Trunk or Treat is one annual event no one ever tires of. Sixty-two uniquely festooned motor vehicles populated the parking lot for 90 minutes of trunk or treating. And it is no exaggeration, HCS families donated enough candy for this event to equal the size of a home mortgage payment! Lofty spirits pervaded the crowd as I received quite a few highly favorable and heart-warming comments from parents throughout the night regarding the deep sense of family and community that exists at HC.

Congratulations to the Carter Family for their first-place winning vehicle---The Las Vegas Casino, the Poliquin's for their second place Stranger Things vehicle and third-place honors belong to Mrs. "B" for the Bee themed vehicle.

Just one final word in closing, as a school we place strict guidelines on the costuming of our elementary students on Halloween. We avoid all references to the demonic aspect of the day. As a Catholic school we participate in this day as a way of enjoying time with friends and family and a manner of school community engagement. We always have and always will teach our students to be a light for Jesus in a world where there is darkness

ple that say, "Oh, Jesus didn't mean to create a Church or religion, he just wanted to help people." Egads! The people of this world were not an Eagle Scout Project for Christ. He was not some role model, or some good guy – when folks speak of Christ merely in terms like that, they diminish Him by faint praise. Christ was not some guy who did good work around the neighborhood; he was and is God in the flesh, the Son of God, the Redeemer, our Savior. To say less than that of Him, to reduce him to a mere role model is to fall into Arianism.

3. Relativism: Visit from the Relatives. The first time I got a dose of relativism was in seminary, when a classmate of mine, during a lecture on "truth," said to the instructor: "Yeah, but what is truth for you, isn't necessarily truth for me – don't we each have our own truth?" He was of course rightly reprov'd for the comment for its illogic. However, this nice sounding, free-to-be-you-and-me claptrap ("we each have our own truth") is in the air these days. The idea that truth is malleable, or that each of us have our own truth sounds great to our hyper-individualistic society. But this, too, is heresy – it is relativism. As Pope Benedict XVI once said, "A dictatorship of relativism is being formed; one that recognizes nothing as definitive and that has as its measure only the self and its desires." In relativism, good and bad, right or wrong, truth or lie, have no objective meaning. Everything become subjective (based on the view of the person) and thus in our world today we could have 7,000,000,000 truths – or better put, no truth at all. By extension, (and contradicting Christ's words in John 14:6, "I am the... Truth") there is no God of truth in a world of relativism because in that world all points of view are equally valid, and all truth is relative to the individual (and not to God). Secular humanism, which makes man the ultimate arbiter of truth is an example of relativism in our world today.

4. Gnosticism: I've Got a Secret. Back in the day, Gnosticism – a wide-ranging heresy that took many forms – was quite de rigueur. It spoke to a secret knowledge (or "gnosis") that was necessary for salvation, and was only available to an elite few. It saw man as "sparks of the Divine" that were dropped into physical bodies causing him to fall into sin. Salvation, the Gnostics would say, would be by coming to self-knowledge, that they don't belong to physical realm and must escape it. In the 11-12th century, the Albigensian heresy brought Gnosticism back into vogue; lamenting physicality so much that they decried marriage and promoted suicide.

Gnosticism Today: "Conscious Evolution." Does Gnosticism exist today? It does. It crops up constantly, and one of the latest forms of it is something called "Conscious Evolution." This is the belief that mankind now has developed the ability to choose how our species will exist in the future. It asserts that man is the edge of an ongoing evolution of the universe and that he controls the change (not God). This sounds either groovy or goofy depending on one's views, but basically it takes Christ out of the equation of man's redemption. A number of years the Church's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith condemned this heresy, saying: "The futuristic ideas advanced by the proponents of Conscious Evolution are not actually new. The Gnostic tradition is filled with similar affirmations and we have seen again and again in the history of the Church the tragic results of partaking of this bitter fruit." This false teaching is based on secret knowledge – that is, a teaching known only by some, and not part of God's public revelation to us.

Fighting Heresies. Pope Francis once said, "Heresies are this: trying to understand with our minds, and with only our personal light, who Jesus is." Heresies are always bound up and put forth by a person or group trying to supplant Church teaching with their own. Thus, heresies have been around since the early Church. As Christ's faithful, we need to steer clear of these false teachings. And we do that through prayer, reflection and listening to the voice of Christ and his Church. Pope Pius X in an encyclical once referred to Mary as "Destroyer of All Heresies" as she stands for the opposite of all the errors whispered to us by the Devil. Mary, Destroyer of All Heresies, pray for us!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor