



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 9, 2025

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

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



THE TEMPLE OF GOD
WHICH YOU ARE
IS HOLY



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

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.

Donations Welcome

We have many families in need of food and basic supplies. Make a contribution to the Samaritans so we can continue to serve all those in need in our parishes and in our community.



WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending October 26, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$27,114	\$27,125	(\$11)
YTD	\$429,050	\$447,498	(\$18,448)
Needs	\$1,959	\$1,738	\$221

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending October 26, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,760
Second	\$617

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,

Last Sunday, at Mass, which was All Souls Day (November 2), I preached on the topic of purgatory — and how it is a gift of God's mercy. After Mass, someone asked me the question, "Where is purgatory in scripture?" Great question (though keeping in mind that as Catholics, we are not a "people of the book" — we utilize scripture and tradition), and I want to give some semblance of an answer to that. With that thought in mind, I want to devote this column to our Catholic teaching on the topic of Purgatory.

Offer It Up. When I was a kid in Catholic school, if you hurt yourself on the playground, were struggling with some subject being taught, or were having a difficult day, the nun who taught the class would say something to you like, "Just offer it up for the poor souls in Purgatory." And thus we turned our dilemma or distress into a prayer of sorts for those who went before us, that they might find quick and sweet repose in Heaven, thus making clear to us, even at a young age, that even our troubles could be put to good purpose. Thus, these days, when I find myself sitting in traffic on I-95, with great annoyance and perturbation, I offer it all up for the poor souls. Similar to the I-95 experience, this summer, when I found myself sitting in Friday or Saturday traffic on Route 1 going south toward the beaches, I must have sprung a couple of dozen souls from Purgatory in the course of those travels.

I-95, Prayers and Purgatory. Okay, so we offer it up. But, we need to know more than that as adults in the faith — we need to understand the nature of Purgatory. We need to embrace the phraseology that someone died and is in Purgatory (which is the default position of our faith), and understand that it is not a negative statement. It is a blessing and a clear sign of God's mercy for mankind. It makes it clear that the Poor Souls in Purgatory, kind of like me in the midst of I-95 traffic and angst, will be getting to our destination... but there will be time, faith, patience, and prayer needed. That being said, let's talk Purgatory!

Basic Theology of Purgatory: A Touch of Grace. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a "purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven," which is experienced by those "who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified" (CCC 1030). Purification is necessary because nothing unclean can enter the presence of God in heaven (Rev. 21:27). Although we may die with our mortal sins forgiven, there can still be many impurities within us, specifically venial sins and the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven.

Just Passing Through. People don't so much go to Purgatory as 'pass through' purgatory. Anyone who has not been completely freed of sin and its effects is, to some extent, "unclean." Through repentance, he may have gained the grace needed to be worthy of heaven, which is to say, he has been forgiven and his soul is spiritually alive. But that's not sufficient for

gaining entrance into heaven. He needs to be cleansed completely. A Holy Soul enters heaven only when it is totally stainless (prepared), and not before. That soul receives the beatific vision only when it is ready for it, only when there is no element of one's self not wholly made perfect (ready), and only when it can bear that supreme gift of God. Yet we know our prayers can help it.

Scripture and Purgatory. In Scripture, specifically in 2 Maccabees, we are given insight into praying for the souls of those who have died but are not yet in Heaven (i.e., are in Purgatory), which in turn lays the groundwork for our basic understanding of Purgatory. Two passages make the case for praying for the dead that they may be purged (purged) from their sin, and be able to find eternal rest in heaven. The first passage I will quote concerns Jews who were found to have been wearing amulets based on the superstition of a false god. This was deemed sinful. Having died wearing these amulets, it was deemed that they carried this sinfulness into death:

"But under the tunic of each of the dead, they found amulets sacred to the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. So it was clear to all that this was why these men had fallen. They all therefore praised the ways of the Lord, the just judge who brings to light the things that are hidden. Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out." (2 Maccabees 12:40-42a)

The text then goes on to identify that the person was praying for these departed brethren as he was "expecting the fallen to rise again" — that is, that he believed in eternal life. Thus:

"[H]e did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness; it was a holy and pious thought. Thus, he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin." (2 Maccabees 45-46)

But is there anywhere else in scripture that covers this concept of purgation or being made pure or prepared for Heaven? Regarding this idea of "purification," there is another broader basis for this aspect of Purgatory. In St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:2b-5 we read:

"We boast in hope of the glory of God... we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint." (Romans 5:2b-5)

This Scripture reveals that purification is applied to us over time through, among other things, the process

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F. Pastor
 Rev. John Enemuo Parochial Vicar
 Rev. Wilson Paulose 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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell 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 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

Mallory O'Mara Principal, ext. 111

MAILING ADDRESS

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

NOV 16 - 33RD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: MALACHI 4:1-2A

To honor God is to find energy and joy.

SECOND READING: 2 THESSALONIANS 3:7-12,

Paul encourages us to follow his example and to work hard..

GOSPEL: LUKE 21:5-19

Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple and chaos, but those who remain faithful to him will survive and find life.

GUIDELINES FOR 2025 MASS INTENTIONS

- Mass intentions for the 2025 year ARE NOW BEING TAKEN.
- All 2026 Mass requests must be submitted in writing **using our new Mass Intention Request Form that is available in the Parish Office.**
- The suggested stipend is \$10 per Mass. **Payment must be included with the form at the time of scheduling.** Checks are to be made payable to Holy Cross.
- Each registered parish household may submit one (1) Mass Intention Request Form to schedule only **one (1) weekend Mass and two (2) weekday Masses OR** three (3) weekday Masses for a total of three (3) Mass Intentions, **based on availability.** If possible, it is suggested to group deceased family members together.
- We will try to accommodate the Mass time you request or a time closest to it. We will notify you if we have to select a different date than the one requested.
- Masses will be entered in the 2026 book in the order that request forms are received.
- Thank you for your patience and understanding using these guidelines for scheduling the Mass intentions.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our newly registered members

- Meghan Malloy
- Chase Christiansen
- Victor and Elign Lopez and Sandq Hernandez

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families who recently lost a loved one:

- Benny DeVito
- Angela Gadaleta
- Francine Tocchetti

UNVEILING THE MYSTICAL MOVEMENT OF THE MASS

Our Monday morning class with Matthew Leonard's The Science of Sainthood will begin "Liturgy and Life: Unveiling the Mystical Movement of the Mass" on Monday, 11/10/25 at 9:00 a.m. in the Luke room of the ELC building. Hope to see you there!

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is gearing up for all of the Thanksgiving baskets that we will need this year. Please be as generous as possible with the food supply list of what we need:

- Turkeys (10-14 lb)
- gravy/gravy packets
- stuffing
- sweet potatoes
- Corn and Green beans
- Rice; Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Fruit; Cranberry sauce
- Jello packages
- Instant Mash Potatoes
- Brownie mix
- Jiffy muffin mix

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Samaritans will be collecting food at the Redner's Store in Camden on November 21. We are in need of some volunteers to man the doors that day to collect the items. Are you willing to help? Contact Kathy Lessard at 302-270-5875 if you can donate some of your time.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, we meet Diocese of Wilmington's associate superintendent of schools, Ms. Carol Ripken. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DiocesefofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

VENERATION OF THE RELICS OF ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS

Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. All are invited to a Bus trip sponsored by the Community of Mary, Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCDS)

MASS INTENTION NOVEMBER

10 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Grace and Louis Jara

11 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Josephine Nardone

12 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Janet Dyba

13 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am Grace Kapys
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

14 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Carole Layton

15 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 am Jim Clark
HC 5:00 pm Ryan Family

16 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Darrin Conte
ICC 8:30 am Louis and Anna Adam
HC 9:30 am Cynthia Hinkle
ICC 11:00 am Elise Carrow
HC 11:30 am For the People
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Nov 9—Nov 15 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of the Frank Thomas.

Nov. 2 - Nov 8 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of the people of Holy Cross.

Thursday, November 20, 2025; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Leaving from St. Jude The Apostle Church, Lewes, DE. Veneration of St. Therese's relics Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration Opening Mass for the Veneration of the Relics with Cardinal Gregory, Archbishop Emeritus of the Washington Diocese. Lunch (Bring Your Own) and Gift Shop Conference with a Carmelite Friar of the Washington Monastery Cost \$50. Please make checks payable to John Kudlick and mail to: 36223 Tee Box Boulevard, Frankford, DE 19945 Questions? jkudlick@verizon.net or call 302-415-9731

NOVEMBER 15/16, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM M. Sirolli J. Bieker J. Novack
N. Sirolli C. Bugglin J. Novack

LECTORS

D. Kirby
G. Murphy

7:30 AM J. Chandler A. Wyllie A. Wilk
J. Denney S. Gede C. Wilk

LECTORS

J. Davis

9:30 AM A. Siegel M. Wessel B. Torbert
G. Wessel R. Willey C. Torbert

LECTORS

M. Sossich
R. Alderman

11:30 AM A. Cisneros B. Guzman TBD
C. Garcia

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM J. Moore

LECTORS

K. Escalante

11:00 AM A. Poppiti

LECTORS

K. Perez



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

FAITH DIRECT NOW PARISH SOFT

The conversion from Faith Direct to Parish Soft (Ministry Brands) is complete. There are several ways to access your account. Visit www.holycrossdover.org/giving or <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/FD-251> and use your prior Faith Direct email address (or phone number) and password in which you registered. You may be prompted to change your password, please follow those prompts and log in to Parish Soft to make changes or view upcoming contributions.

Questions regarding your contributions should be directed to ParishSoft Donor Support at 866-930-4774, option 6, or by emailing donorsupport@parishsoft.com as the Holy Cross Parish office does not have the authority to modify your account such as frequency of contributions or donation designations.

Those interested in signing up for ParishSoft electronic giving can visit our website at: holycrossdover.org and click on the Online Giving tab at the top of the page.

Pamphlets about ParishSoft are in the Gathering Space and in the Parish Office.

- **Ya se nos aproxima Nuestro Retiro de Adviento:** Ya estan disponibles los boletos para adquirirlo hable con cualquier miembro de la Junta Directiva o a la oficina parroquial. Sabado 22 de noviembre, de 8 am a 4pm en el salon de Eventos..El Tema es “ Las tres miradas llena de Esperanza” El Padre Javier Zavala desde Honduras. Se pide una donación de \$25.00.esto incluye el Almuerzo.Venga y preparese para aprender a vivir el Adviento que es tiempo de espera para recibir en sus corazones al Emanuel en esta Navidad. Vivamos el Adviento con nuestros corazones llenos de Alegria, Amor y Esperanza.
- **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 Gimnasio y si desea ser voluntario por favor anotese con la Sra. Arline Dosman o con cualquier miembro de la Junta Directiva.
- **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.
- El Ministerio de Arte y Ambientación: Tendrá una reunión el domingo 10 de noviembre después de la Santa Misa. en el templo. se les pide a todos los miembros y los de la Junta Directiva que por favor hagan acto de presencia, su participación es de gran importancia. Si alguien quiere unirse al grupo, se le invita a que se quede después de la santa Misa.
- **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
- **¿Qué son las Posadas?**es la Novena de NavidadLas posadas navideñas son 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 pequeños se disfrazan de Maria y Jose 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.
- **La Virgen Peregrina:** La Virgen Peregrina está visitando los hogares, si usted desea que la imagen de la virgen peregrina visite su casa por una semana, hable con nuestra hermana Marta Espinosa.
- **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

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA DEL ICC:

- **Primera Reconciliación :** Sesión #4 El martes 11 de noviembre de 6:30pm – 7:30pm Si su hijo no ha asistido a las clases o los padres no asistieron a la reunión de padres de familia. Por favor comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 o email to dre@iccmmarydel.org para cualquier pregunta.
- **Confirmación:** La Segunda sesión es el domingo ** 9 de noviembre, 3-5:30pm en el salón. “ Atención esto es un cambio de las fecha original de la sesión”. Por favor comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 o email to dre@iccmmarydel.org para cualquier pregunta.

RELIGIOUS ED AT HOLY CROSS

Next Class:

November 11th (Grades Kindergarten – 4th grade) or November 12th (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.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Deacon Bob’s Adult Ed Class Week 10 of 10 (part 1) "Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church"

is every Tuesday at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room of the Parish Office, 2nd Floor, Building C

"Foundations of Faith: A Journey Through the Catechism of the Catholic Church is the ultimate way for your parish or small group to encounter the wisdom of the Catechism and deepen your understanding of the Catholic Faith.

This is a free class; however, the workbook set associated with this program will be ordered upon request for a cost of \$40 (workbook and catechism chart)

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.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

November class is 11/16.

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.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Confirmation Classes:

Sunday, Nov 9 5-6:30 pm in the Parish Hall OR Wednesday, Nov. 12 6-7:30 pm in the Matthew Mark Room.

Youth Group:

Next Meeting - November 9

Please join us from 6:30 pm to 8 pm. We will meet in the school cafeteria for food and fellowship. All high school teens are welcome.

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/biy-espanol-registration>



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

Religious Education:

Catechist In-service: Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 7pm in office meeting room.

Confirmation Prep:

Session #2- Sunday, November 9, 3-5:30pm in the Parish Hall

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

First Reconciliation Prep:

Session #4- Tuesday, November 11, 6:30-7:30pm, Parish Hall

Session #5- Tuesday, November 25, 6:30-7:30pm, Parish Hall

OCIA:

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

Dear Parishioners,

As we moved through our first full week of November, our Holy Cross community experienced many moments of faith, learning, and gratitude.

This week, we celebrated Vocation Awareness Week across our parish and school. Each class from Pre-K through eighth grade participated in lessons about vocations and the unique ways we are all called by God. Teachers led thoughtful discussions that helped students understand how they, too, are called by name to serve in their own ways. Throughout the week, our priests and deacons joined students during lunch periods to share about their vocations and answer questions about life in the faith. Our younger learners in the Early Childhood building enjoyed special visits where our clergy read stories, prayed with them, and shared the joy of living a life devoted to Christ. We are always grateful for their presence, but this week offered a special opportunity to focus on their calling and to inspire our students to consider how God may be calling them in the future.

This Monday also marked the beginning of our second STAR Testing Window of the school year. These assessments allow teachers to track student growth and guide instruction to best support each learner. STAR testing results will be shared with parents before Thanksgiving break so families can review their child's progress. We encourage all students to get plenty of rest and eat a healthy breakfast each day to help them perform their best.

After school on Monday, our Military Kids Club met for their second gathering of the year. This special group, made up of students who have family members serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, spent time preparing for next week's Veterans Day Assembly. They created thank you cards that will be presented to veterans during the ceremony and learned more about the branches of our military. It was a heartfelt meeting filled with gratitude, pride, and reflection. We are thankful for the service and sacrifice of these families and the example they set for all of us.

On Tuesday, our faculty and staff met for our Religion Committee meeting, where we planned upcoming school Masses and began preparations for Catholic Schools Week. Wednesday brought a beautiful All Saints Day Mass led by our third grade students. It was inspiring to see them lead our school community in prayer and reflection.

Thursday included a concussion screening clinic for our sixth graders and our monthly staff meeting, where we discussed upcoming events and report card preparations as we move toward the Christmas season. On Friday, students enjoyed a TAG Day to support our National Junior Art Honor Society by dressing as their favorite artists. It was a fun, creative way to close out a week filled with faith and community.

As we continue through this month of gratitude and reflection, may we all take time to thank God for the many blessings in our lives and in our Holy Cross family.

God bless,

Mrs. O'Mara

of sanctification, through which the Christian is made holy. Sanctification involves affliction and endurance, and Purgatory is that final stage of sanctification that some of us need to undergo before we enter heaven. Purgatory is the final phase of Christ's applying to us the purifying redemption that he accomplished for us by his death on the cross.

The Soul-full Art of Purgatory? In Catholic art, purgatory is usually portrayed by images of men and women engulfed in a purifying fire. The men and women are usually reaching up to heaven or they have their faces buried in their hands as a sign of shame for their sins. Many pieces of art show the Blessed Mother with the Christ Child looking down into purgatory. The Christ Child is shown pointing to a specific poor soul, calling him forth. Angels are usually shown pulling that selected poor soul out of purgatory. This artist representation is done to emphasize that Christ is the just judge and the sole (or is it soul) mediator, and that Mary intercedes for the poor souls to her Son. Many of these images also show the saints in Heaven partaking in the intercession or welcoming the souls to Heaven.

Prayer and Purgatory. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1030). This practice of prayer is rooted in the tradition of praying for the dead, as mentioned in Sacred Scripture. "Therefore (Judas Maccabeus) made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin." (2 Macc. 12:45).

Mass Celebration. From the beginning, Holy Mother Church has honored the memory of the dead by offering prayers in suffrage for them. Why is a Mass offered? The Holy Mass is the celebration of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. The Eucharist, as per its Greek meaning, is an act of thanksgiving, of praise, of joy. It is also the most efficacious means to help the souls languishing in purgatory. Why? Because the Holy Mass is the highest act of worship and the highest form of prayer. The souls long for the Precious Blood of Jesus; how so, you may wonder? For spiritual insight in this regard, I turn us over to St. Thomas Aquinas, Fr. John Peter Arendzen (dubbed in his day as "preacher of the century"), and of course, the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

- *"As dew refreshes and raises up the withering plants and flowers, so does the Blood of Christ revive and comfort and bring renewed hope to the Poor Souls in purgatory."* – St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church
- *"[W]hen in answer to our prayers God remits the whole or a part of the sentence of the Holy Souls, the shackles of past sin [temporal punishment due for sin] do, as a matter of fact, fall away from that soul. Its stains are being washed away, the rust of former faults which tarnished its brightness is removed by the omnipotence of God. The weight that keeps it down and away from God is lifted, and it rises towards God with instinctive and irresistible force."* - Purgatory and Heaven by Fr. John Peter Arendzen, D.D.
- (CCC 960) *"Our prayer for them [the poor souls] is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective."*

Thoughts from John, Paul, George, and Ringo. Back in the day, The Beatles sang, "Help! I need somebody / Help! Not just anybody / Help! You know I need someone / Help!" And using the words of the Beatles, let's be the people who help those souls in Purgatory with our prayers as they make their journey. How can we help?

- We can do an act of penance: fast, sacrifice, or endure a difficulty and "offer it up" for the poor souls.
- We can perform good works: visit the sick, engage in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, take someone to Mass, and so on.
- We can give Alms: Have Masses offered for the Holy Souls.
- We can pray for those in Purgatory: A Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament after Mass is extremely efficacious for the Holy Souls.
- We can pray for those who are in danger of dying without being in the state of Sanctifying Grace.

In November, this month of All Souls, we pray for the souls of the faithful departed who are being purified in purgatory. In this, we profess our belief that, just as God has not forgotten these poor souls because of their imperfections, neither do we. Love abides. For us, belief in purgatory is Good News: even though we may not, in this life, be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect (Matt 5:48), we can still hold fast to the hope that there are mansions for us in the kingdom of heaven. God bless you during this month of praying for the Poor Souls.

Yours in Christ,
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Pastor