

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

October 12, 2025

28th 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

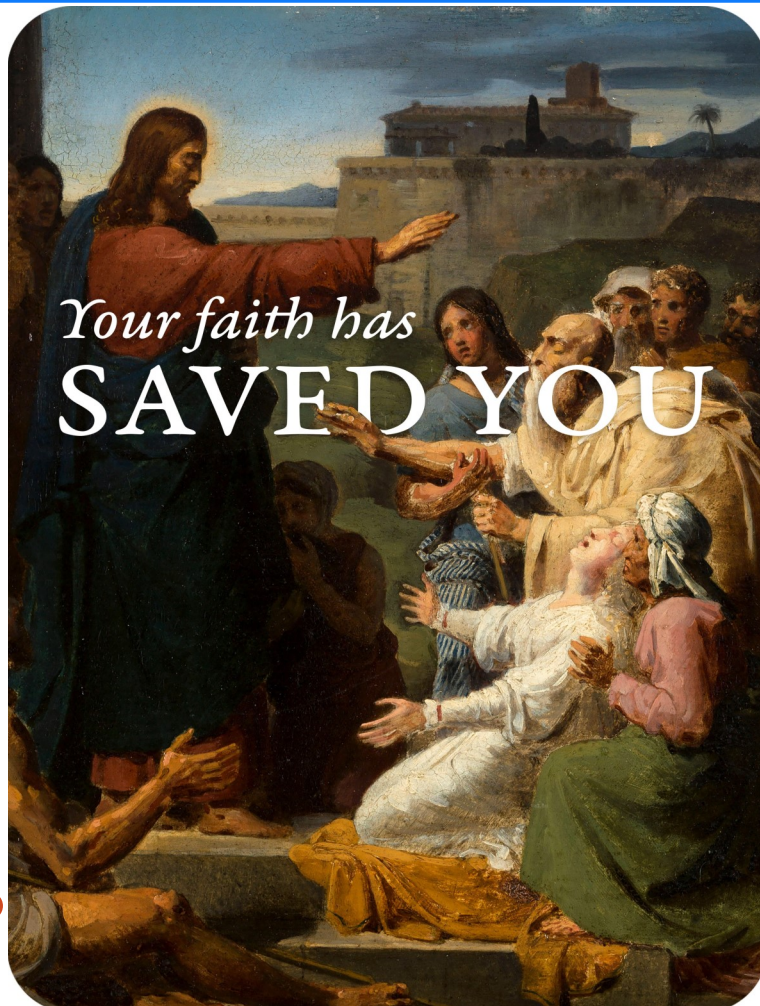
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



Your faith has
SAVED YOU

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
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.

October is Respect Life Month



“All **LIFE** has inestimable value, even the **weakest** and most **vulnerable**, the **sick**, the **old**, the **unborn** and the **poor** are masterpieces of God’s creation.”

Pope Francis

Respect Life

© Dicosan

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending September 21, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$21,917	\$25,912	(\$3,995)
YTD	\$298,218	\$313,086	(\$14,868)
Needs	\$1,983	\$1,738	\$245

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending September 21, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,474
Second	\$479

Sorry due to the bulletin being printed earlier than normal new figures were not available for HC or ICC. Will catch up next bulletin.

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,

Years ago, you might see a character on the street holding a sign saying “The End is Near!” The caricature of this person has made its way into many comic strips. But in terms of this series on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the end is indeed near. In this fifth and final part of the series, we begin in the midst of the Communion Rite, starting with the Sign of Peace, and finish with the Concluding Rites of the Mass.

And, as my favorite comedian of yesteryear, Jackie Gleason, used to say: And away we go!

Let’s pick up where I left off last week... the Sign of Peace:

The Sign of Peace. A misunderstood part of the Mass, the sign of peace (when we say “Peace be with you”) isn’t meant as a horizontal peace between two people greeting each other at this point at Mass. Rather, when at Mass, we say “Peace be with you,” what is being expressed is “the peace of Christ be with you.” What is the peace of Christ? It is peace between God and man that Christ won for us on the Cross. Man had breached his relationship with God, starting with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden; various covenants were subsequently torn asunder by man’s fickleness and, at times, faithlessness. There was a breach between man and God; thus, the Gates of Heaven were closed, and paradise was lost. But by Christ’s sacrifice, peace between God and humankind was restored — the hope of Heaven returned. It is that “Peace” — that peace of Christ, that hope of heaven that we extend to one another.

- **From Scripture.** The most related verse of scripture regarding what we call “the sign of peace” is found in St. John’s Gospel 14:27, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.” The emphasis here is that the peace being shown is not that of the world (mankind), but of God.

The Fraction Rite (Agnus Dei). As the Lamb of God is said or sung during Mass, you will notice the Priest standing at the altar holding up the Sacred Host, and then breaking it. This is called the fraction rite, as the Priest is fractioning the host. During this rite, he takes a small piece of the host and drops it in the Chalice while saying some prayers.

This tradition dates back to ancient times, where a small piece of bread would be placed into a cup of wine. In ancient Rome, a piece of toasted bread was dropped into wine to reduce the drink’s acidity and improve its flavor. (Fun fact: this practice was the origin of the modern term “toast,” derived from the Latin word *tostus* — hence, when we raise a glass of wine that is ready to be drunk, we raise a toast).

This practice, however, took on a different meaning when it was adopted by the early Church. In the early Church (in

Rome until the 800s), popes and bishops would take portions of consecrated hosts and likely place them in a pyx (a sacred container used for transporting the Eucharist from one place to another). That would then be taken to other churches and Dioceses, where at the fraction rite, the celebrant would take that received piece of a host and place it into the chalice. Thus, the Eucharist that was consecrated by the Pope or a Bishop would be present at a local Church, symbolizing its being in communion with the greater realm of the Church.

- **From Scripture.** In Luke 24:35b, we are told that as Christ journeyed with two followers on the Road to Emmaus, “he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.” Also, in Luke 22:19 (in part), we hear, “he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them.”

The Communion Rite (Ecce Agnus Dei). In years past, many homes had dinner bells. The kids might be out playing, while other family members might be doing work outside. However, when dinner was ready, the dinner bell would be rung. It would draw attention to the meal that awaited them. What a bucolic image. Now, growing up in New York, my dinner bell took the form of my mother sticking her head out the window and yelling, “Get up here now, dinner’s ready.” Yeah, not as bucolic.

In any event, while the Communion Rite proper is said to begin with the Our Father, I am going to focus on the most visible portion of the Rite of Communion, which finds the faithful preparing to receive Holy Communion imminently. The Priest holds the fractioned host over the Chalice (or the paten [plate]), lifts it up, and says: “Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.” To this, the people respond: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.” When that host is held high, that is likened to a dinner bell; or in this case, nothing as jejune as a dinner, but rather an entering into the supper of the Lamb. Both the Priest’s words and the response are directly born of Scripture.

- **From Scripture:** The words of the Priest recall the intonations of St. John the Baptist as we find the Gospel of St. John 1:29, “he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.’” While the second half of his words recalls Revelation 9:19, “Then the angel said to me, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.’” The people’s response recalls the words of the Centurion in Luke 7:6-7 (in part), who, upon find-

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

OCT 19—29TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: EXODUS 17:8-13

Moses instructs Joshua to go out and fight the Amalekites. With the help of his older brother, Aaron, and their companion and ally, Hur, Moses holds up his staff throughout the battle. The Amalekites are defeated. The story reminds us how important it is to support each other through difficult moments.

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 3:14 O-4:2

St. Paul writes from his prison cell to encourage Timothy and others in the early Christian communities to persevere in their faith. He wants to form and teach leaders from within the communities to inspire others. He reminds Timothy of all he has learned and calls on him to be steadfast.

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:1-8

In this text, a judge is persuaded to grant justice because the widow never gives up asking. She makes him uncomfortable, when he expect to be able to ignore her. Finally, he gives in and grants her request.

SHARE IN THE SPIRIT COLLECTION

For those of you who have not yet participated, you may still contribute to the Share in the Spirit collection for tuition assistance. Please drop your envelope in the collection basket or parish office or, visit the Share in the Spirit website at <https://www.cdown.org/share-in-the-spirit> and click on "Ways to Give." Your support is gratefully appreciated.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to the newly registered parishioners of Holy Cross:

- John, Jessica, Royce and Jensen Orona
- Samuel, Brianna, Benaiah, Roanan and Irelynn Felts

RECENTLY DECEASED

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

- William Willis
- Rosalia Fountain

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

The pantry is in need of the following items: Grocery store size paper bags, Cereal, oatmeal, one pound bags of rice,

canned goods, peanut butter, jelly, soups/ chunky soup, Brownie mix, and hamburger helper/Manwich.

The above and meat or burger can be left in the pantry dropoff door behind the rectory. Thank you for your generosity.

LITTLE REFLECTION BOOKS, ADVENT, LENT AND EASTER SEASONS.

3 books for the one price of \$10.

Please give money, name and phone number to Holy Cross Parish Office, or to Marilyn Dixon at Immaculate Conception

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, meet Michele Linder, executive director of Catholic Cemeteries of the Diocese of Wilmington. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/ DioceseofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30. More information is available at cdow.org/CatholicForum and [FaceBook.com/CatholicForum](https://www.facebook.com/CatholicForum).

HOLY CROSS GOLF LEAGUE

The Holy Cross Golf League Tournament raised \$6000 for the Catholic Heart Work Camp here at Holy Cross. CHWC helps Holy Cross teens grow spiritually and learn the value of helping those in need. We are truly grateful to all the Parish individuals and organizations who contributed. Thank you.

**October is the month
of the
Rosary
Remember to pray it daily**



**MASS INTENTION
OCTOBER**

13 MONDAY

HC 9:00 am Raymond Cola

14 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Sinclair Family

15 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Bruce White, Jr.

16 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am John Dye
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

17 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Sheila Brothers

18 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 pm Douglas Kistle
HC 5:00 pm Margie & Gino Galli

19 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Darrin Conte
ICC 8:30 am John Foley & Teresa Crenshaw
HC 9:30 am Frank Coyle
ICC 11:00 am Monica Brusca
HC 1:00 pm Lucila Bueno
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Oct 12-18 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of Diane Belt (LI).

Oct 12-18 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of Michelle Brooks.

HOLY CROSS HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Come to our Open House — Sunday, October 19 12 PM–2 PM. Families are warmly invited to explore the faith-filled, academically excellent community of Holy Cross High School. Meet our dedicated faculty, tour our campus, and learn how we nurture students to grow in leadership, service, and spiritual life.

SODALITY GROUP

Our Sodality of Holy Cross will meet for their regular monthly meeting this Sunday, October 12, at 12:30 pm on the second floor of the Early Learning Center. We welcome visitors to come check us out and consider joining our group. We try to raise funds for the church to purchase liturgical items. We pray together, go on retreat, and share our faith. Come join us!

OCTOBER 18/19, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. Darling
L. Darling

D. Field
S. Garber

L. Toto
C. Barrett

LECTORS

M. Phillips
H. Showell

7:30 AM

C. Brown
J. Chandler

J. Davis
J. Denney

T. Catipay
S. Corpuz

LECTORS

K. Meire

9:30 AM

R. Willey
T. Arndt

D. Banach
K. Boyer

P. Cusatis
M. Ford

LECTORS

S. Ford
L. Lewandowski

11:30 AM

A. Cisneros
C. Garcia

B. Guzman

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

G. Godfrey

LECTORS

T. Woodeshick

11:00 AM

L. Schlaupitz

LECTORS

Lausten Family



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.

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

"The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration, the privileged "place" for our encounter with God."

Pope Francis - World Youth Day 2016

Hours open and needed:

Sunday 7AM 5-6PM 8-9PM

Thursday 8-9 PM

Friday: 2-3 PM

Saturday 12-1 PM 1-2PM 7-8PM 8-9PM

If you are a current Adorer and can no longer make your hour, please make contact with Adoration Coordinator. Contact John Murphy for more information.

FAITH DIRECT USERS

The upgrade from Faith Direct to **ParishSOFT Managed Giving** has been completed. This change reflects our commitment to making generosity easier, more secure, and more impactful for every member of our faith community. ParishSOFT Giving offers all the same reliable features you've come to know—recurring gifts, online giving, and donor support—plus new enhancements to better serve you: • Modern giving options: including Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo, PayPal, stock, and crypto. • Anonymous Giving • Mobile-friendly experience: give online, through the app, or by text. • Option to cover processing fees to maximize the impact of your generosity. • Donors can give based on your preferred schedule, with support for weekly contributions rather than once-a-month processing. Thank you for continuing to support Holy Cross with such generous hearts.

MASS ON OCTOBER 13—COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY

The Mass on Monday, October 13, will be celebrated at 9 am in the church. This will be the only Mass for the day.

The Parish Office will be closed on October 13 in observance of the holiday.

The School Office will be close on October 13 also.

Have a blessed and restful holiday.

- **Foro Cristiano** : El Foro Cristiano o todos los viernes, 12 de septiembre 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 Católicos. Quedan todos invitados a conocer y a profundizar más en su Fe católica.
- **12 de Octubre Cambio de horario de la Misa en español**: No habrá ese día misa a las 11:30 am. Debido a las Confirmaciones la Misa dominical en español será a la 1:00 de la tarde, para poder acomodar el horario del Señor obispo William Koenig. El cambio de horario será solo por ese domingo, el siguiente domingo regresamos a la hora normal de las 11:30 am.
- **Confirmación de Adultos**: Si usted es mayor de 18 años y no ha recibido el Sacramento de la Confirmación, por favor comuníquese con la Sra. Arline Dosman o llame a la oficina parroquial, las clases de preparación empiezan el 12 de Septiembre. Las Confirmaciones serán aquí en nuestra parroquia el domingo, 12 de octubre a la 1:00 de la tarde. Para poder acomodar el horario del Señor Obispo no tendremos nuestra misa regular de las 11:30 de la mañana sino la misa en español; será a la 1:00pm
- **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.
- **Conquistando las Naciones para Cristo Retiros**: Retiro de Sanación Interior para Hombres y mujeres mayores de 18 años 10-12 de Octubre, 2025, en la iglesia Santa María del Refugio de los pecadores 2000 Hambrooks Blvd. Cambridge, MD 21613 Donación es de \$125. Cupo es limitado
- **Educación Religiosa 2025-26** Las inscripciones para las clases de Educación Religiosa 2025-26 K-8 “YA ESTAN ABIERTAS” **Opción 1**: Kinder a 4.º grado y preparación sacramental/OCIA: martes por la tarde, de 6:00 a 7:30. 5.º a 8.º grado: miércoles por la tarde, de 6:00 a 7:30. **Opción 2**: LAFF (Catequesis Familiar Viviendo en Familia de Fe); Reunión de adultos y niños, el primer y tercer domingo de mes. La familia trabaja en actividades entre ambos. Para situaciones familiares especiales en las que su hijo no pueda asistir a ninguno de los horarios mencionados, comuníquese con nuestra oficina para programar una cita y trabajaremos con usted. Por favor, no deje que la educación religiosa de su hijo se vea interrumpida. Para familias con niños con necesidades especiales, ofrecemos formación en la fe individualmente. Para más detalles, comuníquese con la Oficina de Educación Religiosa. La preparación para la Primera Reconciliación y la Primera Comunión generalmente se realiza en nuestro programa de Nivel 2. Está dirigido a niños que han completado el Nivel 1 (generalmente corresponde a 1.º grado) y que tienen al menos 7 años de edad. Además de la asistencia del niño a las clases regulares, se espera que las familias asistan a las siguientes actividades: Reuniones de Preparación para Padres, Día de Reflexión para Padres/Candidatos de Primera Reconciliación; Día de Retiro para Padres/Candidatos de Primera Comunión. La Primera Reconciliación tendrá lugar en marzo. La Primera Comunión tendrá lugar en mayo. Costo: 1 niño—\$150 2 niños—\$260 3 niños o más—\$340. \$75.- adicional para la preparación sacramental de la Reconciliación y la Primera Comunión. Para más información comuníquese con: Tammy Korosec. Coordinadora d E.R. tkorosec@holycrossdover.org 302.674.5787 ext 122
- **APOSTOLADO DE LAS SIETE HERMANAS EN LA SANTA CRUZ**
- Al fortalecer al sacerdote, fortaleces a toda la Iglesia... (P. Gerald Fitzgerald, 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:

- Las clases comenzaron el domingo 21 de septiembre a las 9:40 am. Los niños tienen que estar inscritos para asistir a las clases. Comuníquese con La Sra. Alicia Poppiti si tiene alguna pregunta.
- Todavía necesitamos ayuda con las clases. Si usted desea ayudar comuníquese con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti, DRE at 410-482-8939 o al dre@iccmmarydel.org si tiene alguna pregunta.
- Padres de familia de los candidatos a la Primera Reconciliación y Confirmación estarán recibiendo información por correo
- Esta semana. Comuníquese con la Sra. Alicia si tiene alguna duda.
- El martes, 30 de septiembre de 6:30 – 7:30 Comienzan las clases de preparación para la Primera Reconciliación en el salón. (Candidato tiene que estar por lo menos en segundo grado)
- El domingo 28 de septiembre a las 2:30pm en el Salón Parroquial habrá una reunión de Padres de familia de los candidatos a la Confirmación (7.º grado completado, matriculado en 8.º grado o superior)

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025-26

Next Class:

October 14th (Grades Kindergarten – 4th grade) or October 15th (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@holycrossover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS

Deacon Bob's Adult Ed Class Week 6 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@holycrossover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Next class 10/19th

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@holycrossover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122 for further information.

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YOUTH MINISTRY

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the size of Sunday class, we will hold all SUNDAY classes in the Parish Hall.

Confirmation Class:

Next class takes place this Sunday, Oct. 12 from 5-6:30 PM in the Parish Hall or Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 6-7:30 pm in the Matthew Mark room. Parents are asked to please return the permission slips for Confirmation Retreat.

Youth Group: Will begin Sunday, October 12 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Luke Room of the ELC building.

MOUNT 2000: Registration will begin soon. Please let Mrs. Darling know if you would like to join the teens from Holy Cross Parish as they attend Mt. 2000 at Mt. St. Mary's University Feb. 6-8, 2026.

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-espanol-registration>



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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

Classes started on Sunday, September 21 @9:40am. Children must be registered to attend. Contact Alicia Poppiti, DRE at 410-482-8939 or dre@iccmaryladel.org.

Please contact Alicia Poppiti if you are not sure of your child's sacraments.

Parent Meetings for both First Reconciliation/First Communion Prep and Confirmation Prep have already taken place.

**Parents must attend one of the two options for Sacrament. Please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 or email to dre@iccmaryladel.org with any questions.

This past week was a four day week for our students, but it was filled with many wonderful moments and blessings. We began on Monday with school picture day. This is always a joyful occasion as students come dressed with their brightest smiles, eager to capture a memory of this school year. These photographs often become treasured keepsakes for families and teachers alike. They serve as reminders of how much our children grow from year to year. I remember how my own mother collected my school photos and how we would look back on them each September to reflect on God's gift of growth. It is heartwarming to think that many of our students are now creating those same cherished traditions with their families.

Also on Monday, our newly formed Military Kids Club held its very first meeting under the guidance of our school counselor, Ms. Vahey. This club provides a special place for students from military families to connect, share their stories, and support one another. We are especially blessed to have Mr. Latham, our seventh grade teacher and a veteran of the United States military, join in leading this effort. His perspective and experience bring great value to the group. We are deeply grateful to the parents who serve in the military or support their spouses who do, and who helped us design this program for our Crusader community. Being located so close to the Air Force base, it is an honor for us to support those who serve our nation.

Tuesday brought our religion committee meeting, where we focused on preparing for the upcoming visit of Bishop Koenig and on ways we can continue to pray the rosary as a school community throughout the month of October. On Wednesday, our fifth grade students traveled north to join other Catholic schools in the Diocese of Wilmington for a special rosary service with the Bishop. We are so proud of the reverence shown by our students and grateful for the diocese's commitment to providing opportunities for Catholic school children to unite in prayer. To hear so many young voices joined together in this powerful devotion was a beautiful testimony to our shared faith.

On Thursday, our students participated in vision screenings and then started their weekend, while our teachers ended their week with a professional development day on Friday. We are grateful to one of our fellow diocesan principals who came to Holy Cross to lead this session, which centered on reviewing and interpreting STAR testing data. STAR tests are taken four times each year by our students in grades K through 8 in both math and literacy. This training offered faculty valuable insight into how we can use data to better serve our students, whether they need extra support or additional enrichment.

Friday marked our first trimester interim, the halfway point of the trimester. We encourage parents to log into PowerSchool to review grades and teacher comments. For our Pre-K students, a short progress summary was sent home. This midpoint is a wonderful time to reflect on achievements and to look at areas for continued growth.

Looking ahead, next week will also be a four day week. We will be closed on Monday, and then we look forward to welcoming Bishop Koenig for his visit as well as hosting a new student breakfast for all Crusaders in grades K through 8 who have joined our community this year. This gathering will allow them to connect, share experiences, and reflect on their transition into Holy Cross.

We are grateful for the blessings of this past week and for the love and support of our Crusader family. May God continue to guide us in all that we do.

Mrs. O'Mara

ing out that Jesus was coming to his home to heal one of his slaves, said, "Lord... I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof... but say the word and let my servant be healed."

Regarding the Reception of Communion. Here are some thoughts to consider regarding the reception of the Blessed Sacrament during the Holy Sacrifice of Mass:

- **Best of Both Worlds.** The Church's doctrine of concomitance reminds us that both species (the Eucharist under the form of bread, and under the form of wine) are fully the Body and Blood of Christ. Thus, when one receives the host, that person is receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.
- **Reverence.** The Sacred Host may be received in the hand of the faithful or on the tongue. Before receiving Communion, members of the faithful are called to make a sign of reverence (usually a bowing of the head).
- **Disposition.** Of note, the faithful are called to be properly disposed when they receive the Sacrament; this means they are not conscious of mortal sin, they have fasted for one hour from food and drink before receiving, they are living their life in accord with the precepts of the Church, and they are able to approach the sacrament with faith, reverence, and respect.

The Prayer after Communion. Following the reception of communion, the Church typically experiences a period of music, silence, or both in proper measure. This is also the time when some folks decide to slip out of Church early – but in doing so, they miss the concluding prayer and the blessing that sends them forth.

In any event, after the reception of Holy Communion is complete, the Priest will say, "Let us pray." The faithful will rise, and the Priest will invoke a prayer that is a direct response to the reception of Communion. The prayer, which varies from Sunday to Sunday, asks God to bestow the benefits of the Eucharist on the faithful, to strengthen them to live out their Christian lives in the world outside the Church's doors.

- **From Scripture.** A clear example of the underlying premise of the Prayer after Communion can be found in the words of the Gospel of St. John 17:18, "As you sent me into the world, so I sent them into the world."

Final Blessing and Dismissal. Following the Prayer after Communion, an announcement may be made on occasion, but the final blessing usually follows immediately. The final blessing takes the form of the Priest saying, "The Lord be with you," and the people responding, "And with your spirit" (just as was done at the start of Mass). The Priest then imparts (gives) a blessing, extending a sign of the cross over the people as he says: "May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit."

A comment about this: The Priest, here, is giving a blessing for people assembled. He is standing in the person of Christ, extending a blessing upon you. Thus, he says, "May almighty God bless YOU." There was a groovy period in the Church when Priests would say something like "May almighty God bless all of us" or "May almighty God bless us." If the Mass were a pinball machine, the "tilt" light would go on when this was said. If the Mass were a computer, it would freeze up and crash when this was said.

Why? Because those words do not bestow or impart a blessing specifically to the people for whom the blessing is intended. Moreover, if the Priest is to be standing in the person of Christ, it would put forth the image of Christ blessing himself. Bad, bad, bad, liturgical move.

- **From Scripture.** In the Old Testament, in the Book of Numbers 6:23-27, we hear these words spoken to Aaron and his son (priests): "This is how you shall bless the Israelites. Say to them: The Lord bless you and keep you! The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you! The Lord look upon you kindly and give you peace! So shall they invoke my name upon the Israelites, and I will bless them." Notice the tri-part blessing; the Lord's name is used three times — a perfect preparation for a blessing in the name of the Trinity down the line. In Luke 24:50, we read, "Then he [Jesus] led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them." Then, in the early Church, we hear St. Paul frequently invoking the Trinity in blessings or greetings, most famously in 1 Corinthians 13:13, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God [the Father] and the fellowship of the holy Spirit be with all of you."

And with that, what starts as a three-part series and ends as a five-part series comes to an end. I hope I provided some insights into the precious Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that help you appreciate it in, perhaps, new ways. God's blessing on all of you!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor