



CHURCH *of the* HOLY CROSS

631 South State Street
Dover, Delaware

302 674 5787
holycrossdover.org

522 Main Street
Marydel, Maryland

410 482 7687
iccmmarydel.org



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

October 16, 2022 29th Sunday Ordinary Time/Respect Life Month

holycross

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

SCHOOLS OFFICE HOURS

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

SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE

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

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

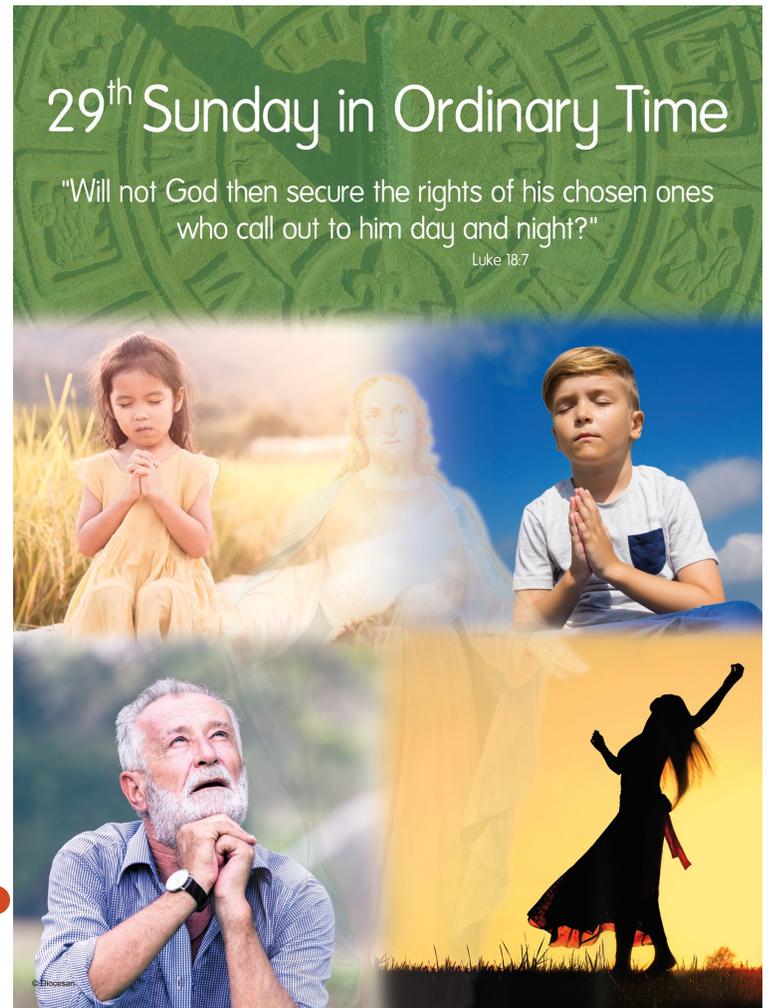
Sunday, 8:30, 11 am
Sunday, 1 pm, Spanish

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Thursday, 6 pm, Spanish

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 pm



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?"

Luke 18:7

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 will open on November 1. 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** 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, 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)

October 2, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$23,381	\$27,300	(\$3,919)
YTD	\$346,088	\$375,300	(\$29,212)
Needs	\$1,644	\$1,504	\$40

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending October 2, 2022

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$5,101
Second Collection	\$481

**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,

There was a 1982 movie called "Sophie's Choice." That movie, "Sophie's Choice," in part, retrospectively tells the story of a young mother, Sophie Zawistowski of Poland, and her two children. They are brought to a Nazi death camp. Sophie is then given a choice by a Nazi officer – he tells her she must make a choice. Only one of her children will be able to live, the other will be gassed in the gas chamber. Pick the one you want to live. If you pick neither, they both die. This was Sophie's Choice. It is a choice that no mother should have to make. It is a choice that is in fact not a choice at all.

Amy's Choice. Let me tell you about another mother. Several year's ago a woman named Amy Richards found herself pregnant with triplets. Amy, who was a woman of reasonable means, decided that triplets would encumber her life too much. So, Amy went to the doctors and asked that two of the three children living in her womb be aborted... and she chose the one that would live. This was Amy's Choice. It is a choice that no one should ever make. It is a barbaric choice.

Of Sophie and Amy. The choice that Amy made is the Choice that Sophie was forced to make in that Nazi camp as a point of horror that haunted her forever. Yet Amy made that choice, wrote about in the New York Times and became at the time, a poster child for Abortion Rights. The difference between Sophie's Choice and Amy's Choice – Sophie realized the horror of her choice; Amy believes it to be a God-given right. Having a society today, much of which shares Amy's view, makes me ponder the line from this Sunday's Gospel: "when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth."

Choice of Words. My dear parishioners, we live in a troubled world. We live in a world where the word "choice" gets a bum rap. The word "choice" should sue for misuse! And from this problem with the word "choice," we find ourselves living in a society where we don't seem to understand what the phrase "free choice" even means anymore.

Free for All? So what does it mean for one to make a "free choice" – or better put, how do they make it? In place we can only understand the phrase "free choice," by understanding the word "free." "Free" is an ancient word and as you advance back in time, it loses its sense of individual, isolated decisions and instead describes a pattern of relationship. To say someone was "free" was to say something about a relationship: that the person was not a slave, that the person was "freely" related to another, defended that other - indeed, "loved" that other. From the source of the word "free"

we get the word "friend." Thus, a free person acts out of love, not out of compulsion, ergo a free choice is out of love, not compulsion.

The Choice of No Choice? So, perhaps the question we should be asking is this: How free is that free choice of abortion? For many women, "choice" is hardly involved in their decision to have an abortion. They may feel compelled by demands or threats from boyfriends, husbands, parents, employers, or sometimes simply by nameless social pressures that threaten women with an uncertain, unsupported future. Still others have been brainwashed by a society that tries to tell them the child in the womb isn't a child. In the tragic climax of William Styron's novel Sophie's Choice, Sophie is forced to make a choice about which of her children to have killed – but was that choice she made really a free choice? If someone - a doctor, a family member, a friend, a pro-abortion media, a faceless sense of doom - convinces someone that abortion is her only choice, is that really a "free" choice?

God at the Center of our Choices. As Christians, our understanding of free choice is inextricably combined with love. We struggle to make God – the object of our love – the criterion on which all our choices are based. We are called to make free choices based not on our desires, or on our fears, not based on the manipulative wishes and threats of other people, or on our own future plans, not on any other consideration, other than our love of God. The Catholic understanding of free choice is quite different from what our society understands.

Common vs. Christian Understanding. Whereas the common notion of free choice suggests doing whatever you please for any reason, as long as you don't hurt anybody or break the law, the Christian understanding of free choice implies always choosing out of love - even if it means crucifixion, even if it hurts. In fact, we know that our salvation depends on these choices – and on our willingness to "lose our lives" in order to save them. These are the true free choices.

Culture Clubs. So during this Respect Life Month, we focus on the battle between "the culture of life" and "the culture of death" – a battle in which the value of human life is juxtaposed against the value of human freedom – but a very dubious sort of freedom. So-called "reproductive freedom" (as it is spun today),

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. I18
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

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.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newly baptized members:

- *Alaia Dalett Morales Pérez*

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered members:

- *Bill and Serina Allan*
- *Anthony, Sara, Lily and Noah Toto*

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

PRAYING THE ROSARY

Thank you to all who signed up to pray the Rosary during the month of October. We collected names of those to pray during this month, and 11,465 rosaries have been pledged to be offered in October. Thank you to all who signed up to pray to Our Lady.



30TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (OCT 23) FIRST READING: ECCLESIASTICUS 35:12-14, 16-19

The Lord hears our prayers and calls us to serve him with all our hearts.

SECOND READING: 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18

In all the circumstances of our lives, God is always with us.

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:9-14

It is those who acknowledge their own sin and weakness who are open to receive God's mercy.

YOUNG AT HEART

The meeting for our Young at Heart seniors scheduled for October 16 has been cancelled. Unfortunately we have not had enough interest in the return of this group. Any questions, please call the Parish Office.

SODALITY

The Sodality Ministry will hold its first meeting on Sunday, October 30, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm. It will be held in the St. Luke room of the Early Learning Center building. We welcome all who are interested in joining the Sodality to attend this meeting.

SAMARITANS

We are asking for food donations to provide balanced meals to families needing assistance: (small packs of ground beef, small tray pack/whole chicken, small beef/pork roasts, Peanut Butter/Jelly, canned Corn, Spaghetti/Sauce) We have a freezer and drop box inside the left door in the building behind the Rectory (unlocked 6AM-6PM)
Thank you for your donations.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING FOR NEW AND CURRENT SERVERS

If you feel you would like to serve at the Altar of the Lord, please consider being an Altar Server.

Qualifications are that you are in the 4th grade or higher, received the Sacraments of First Communion and you are a practicing Catholic.



If you are a current Altar Server and would like to continue serving, this is a required refresher/training course you will need to sign up as well.

Available training date options Saturdays October 22nd or October 29th, 10am – 2pm

Application forms are available in the Parish Office. All forms must be received no later than Wednesday, October 19th. If you have any questions please call the Parish Office (302-674-5785, ext. 110)

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Looking for an in-person or virtual experience getting closer to your spouse? Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!! Many options

MASS INTENTIONS OCTOBER

17 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	DM Rossi Family
18 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Leon Thompson
19 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Frank Coyle
20 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Fr. Thomas Flowers (LI)
ICC 6:00 pm	For the People
21 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Joan Weber
22 SATURDAY	
HC 8 am	Jim Herdman
HC 5 pm	Louis H. Jara
23 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Anne Bajor
ICC 8:30 am	Calvin & Alma Smith
HC 9:30 am	Filomena and Thomas Ward
ICC 11 am	Teresa Canino
HC 11:30 am	Roger Padilla
ICC 1 pm	For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

for virtual events can be found on our website www.wwme-delmar.org. For additional information please call Tony and Linda Mas-sino at 302-648-2228.

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of October 14 - 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

HOLY CROSS OCT 22/23, 2022

		EMHC		SERVERS
5:00 PM	J. Bieker	M. Casey	A. Costa	
	M. Caccese	J. Salamone	E. Costa M. Costa	
LECTORS				
V. Viddy R. Alderman				
7:30 AM	C. Brown	T. Dinan	B. Gyamfi	
	J. Clendaniel	R. O'Neill	E. Gyamfi C. Wilk	
LECTORS				
D. Kilby				
9:30 AM	C. Robinson	G. Wessel	M. Milligan	
	M. Sossich	M. Wessel	J. Novack J. Novack	
LECTORS				
T. Baurys J. Coffield				
11:30 AM	T. Hernandez	M. Richard	K. Espinosa	
	E. Patoriza		C. Geronimo	
LECTORS				
A. Luna				

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM	B. Casey		
	LECTORS		
D. Smith			
11:00 AM	F. Cristiano		
	LECTORS		
L. Soule			
1 PM	To be determined		

Are YOU interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Holy Cross or to the sick and homebound.? We'd love to have YOU step forward to serve in one of these ministries!!!

Training sessions will be on Monday, Oct 24, at 6 pm or Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 1:30 pm in the Church. Please call the Parish Office to sign up for either class.

If you are a current EMHC and have not taken the renewal course, please call the office to sign up for one of these session. You must take the class to continue serving as an EMHC.

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, 10 am, 5 pm, 8 pm
TUESDAY	6 am, 3 pm, 8 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.

Recurring gifts sustain our parish throughout the year, and provide consistent support that helps us always be at the ready with programs, services, and ministries for church families and for those in need in our community.

Sign up today by visiting Faith.Direct/DE251, or text 'Enroll' to (Text-to-Give Number).

Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.

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.cdow.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.
- En Octubre observamos la Fiesta del Santo Rosario establecida el 7 de octubre de 1573, en celebración de la Gran Victoria Milagrosa contra la invasión de los Turcos, una victoria ganada por la CRUZADA DEL ROSARIO, del Papa San Pio V que unió a toda Europa en oración. Únanse a nosotros en el rezo del Rosario durante este periodo por las intenciones de la Paz Mundial y la Conversión de los Pecadores. Por favor, tome un momento y firme el formulario y colóquelo en la canasta de Nuestra Señora Ubicada en el Nártex de nuestra iglesia.
- El 23 de Octubre estaremos celebrando junto con nuestros hermanos peruanos la fiesta del Señor de Los Milagros donde se traerá la imagen del Señor de los Milagros en procesión dentro del Templo. Les pedimos a todos que hagan una oración especial por el Perú.
- LA ROSA DE PLATA Comparta el mensaje de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y promueva el respeto por la vida a través de esta devoción significativa iniciativa de los Caballeros de Colon y que estará en nuestra Diócesis desde el 16 de octubre al 5 de noviembre y estará en nuestra parroquia, el 30 de octubre y la Comunidad Hispana este año será la anfitriona. Tendremos el Rezo del Santo Rosario después de la Misa de las 11:30. Se les invita a rezar el Santo Rosario. Cada año, desde principios de marzo hasta mediados de diciembre, los consejos custodian las Rosas de Plata a lo largo de los trayectos de Canadá a México. Cada parada que hace la Rosa de Plata durante la peregrinación es un momento centrado en el rosario,

para que los Caballeros de Colón, los feligreses y los miembros de la comunidad recen por el respeto a la vida, por la renovación espiritual de cada nación y por el avance del mensaje de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe

- 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 holycrossover.org/teaching-the-faith/christianformation/k-8-formation. Si tiene alguna pregunta o inquietud, no dude en comunicarse con Tammy Korosec en tkorosec@holycrossover.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

ICC- EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA

- PRIMERA RECONCILIACION: Segunda Sesión para niños es el martes 18 de octubre, 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 el domingo 18 de Octubre . a las 2:30pm en el salón, si su hijo no está inscrito com úníquese con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti.
- La inscripción para el año escolar 2022-2023 están cerradas, las inscripciones. Las Clases de Educación Religiosa son los domingos por la mañana, desde el 25 de septiembre hasta el 7 de mayo, de 9:40 a 10:50 a.m. Póngase en contacto con Alicia Poppiti @ 410-482-8939 o dre@iccmmarydel.org para obtener más información. Las inscripciones ya están disponibles.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Next class is 10/23/22 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)

What We Believe: The Beauty of the Catholic Church. Discover the Amazing Riches of the Catholic Faith
Sessions started September 20th and end November 22nd ; Tuesdays at either 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the ELC.

Fee: \$30 includes study guide, book, map, and 1 year digital access

Facilitated by Deacon Bob McMullen
If are interested in registering please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122 as son as possible.

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, Oct. 23 3:30-5 pm
Wednesday, Oct. 26 6-7:30 pm

Confirmation Retreat:
Retreat is November 11 and 12.

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 from September 25th thru 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@icmarydel.org for more information.

If you have any difficulty with affording RE, please call Alicia Poppiti, and the office can assist you.

First Reconciliation/Communion for Immaculate Conception:

Session 3 for children is on Tuesday, November 1st 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:

First Session is today Sunday, October 23rd at 2:30-5pm in the Parish hall. If your youth is not registered, please contact Alicia Poppiti, 410-482-8939.
Sign up for Mount 2000 is closing quickly, please contact Alicia Poppiti to sign up, spaces are limited.

On the off occasion when I have the chance to walk one of the children over to the nurse, the walk is sufficiently long enough to conjure up a brief conversation. Yet, on the other hand, the walk isn't sufficiently long enough to get into any real serious discussions, say on the declining numbers of the Bornean orangutan. (That's a real thing, by the way.) So, on our walks over to the nurse our conversation generally veers towards the weather and what a great day it's going to be for recess, or whether or not they have had breakfast or had eaten their lunch. During our rather innocuous conversation before reaching our destination, I have learned some pretty important facts about our young Crusaders.....for the most part their favorite school lunch is chicken nuggets, they love the French toast sticks and recess, and their favorite season is summer. In return I share that my favorite season is winter, but I also love the fall. Usually, by this time our conversation is nearing it's end because we have arrived for our visit to Mrs. Kolakowski's office and much more important matters are up for the serious side of discussion.

Most will offer that the fall season is their favorite. I might concur if I wasn't such a fan of snow. The colors of fall are down-right gorgeous, the weather is most agreeable affording the opportunities for sweatshirts, hot cider, festivals, and various and sundry outdoor activities and events. Who doesn't want to be out of doors on a beautiful fall day? At HCS we have a few outdoor fall events worth mentioning that you may want to save the date for. You will have to keep an open eye out for the Thursday Communicator in order to learn specifics regarding all the red-letter days coming up in the next several weeks.

Unfortunately, the rains that fell over Dover during the first part of the month caused us to have to reschedule our first ever Pet Parade and Blessing. Originally scheduled for the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the sippy field and parking lot puddles forced us to reconsider. Not to worry though, bring on the pets! Horses, goats, cats, dogs, birds, guinea pigs, geckos, and hamsters. Yes indeed, if it's not too chilly, Francis and I will be happy parade participants. Publication Design students have designed a fancy float for me to pull for my little Francis. (FYI, Francis is my office hamster.) Our Pro-Life Rosary was intended to take on a different approach. Due to the fact that the church is not open for use, Mrs. Crawford and her seventh grade Religion class devised a creative way of praying the Rosary outdoors. From what I've seen thus far, it sort of reminds me of a combination of The Stations of the Cross and the Rosary. Some of the seventh graders have even included period dress in their new perspective on the beautiful and peaceful Marian prayer. However, you will have to stay tuned because it wasn't possible to pray our Rosary in a veritable downpour of liquid precipitation.

It was in honor of Respect Life month that our students came to school dressed in pastel colors of blue, pink, yellow, and violet. Each one giving a small donation, we will be able to forward our collected monies to the Dover location of the New Day Pregnancy Care Center.

It was on the Feast of the Guardian Angel that our eighth graders and Pre-K children came together for the first time for prayer and fellowship. The little ones have worked SO hard to memorize their Guardian Angel prayer, and will remember to pray for them each day of the school year. They will come together each month and over the expanse of the school year become best buddies.

Plans have been made and we eagerly anticipate our First Responders Day scheduled for one fine (and hopefully dry) fall October morning. Representation from the local law enforcement, fire response, and EMT agencies will be on hand to demonstrate their area of expertise in their day-to-day efforts to safeguard the citizens of the Dover. We feel it only right that we show a demonstration of gratitude and respect for the fine men and women who have dedicated their lives to making our communities a safe place to raise children.

The HCS version of Go-Pink Day was sponsored by our Student Council. Many thanks to Mrs. Speed for her efforts in researching "Catholic friendly" agencies to which we can make our humble donation towards their valued work in the protection of life.

And speaking of...have you noticed our white crosses out front? Every year our Honor Society chapter plants about five hundred of them in the ground in memory of the countless lives lost to abortion. Known as the Cemetery of the Innocents, churches across the country create these monuments in memory of those lives terminated through abortion. Pretty soon every fair princess, fearless crime fighting hero, fairy tale notable, and mighty pups of the Paw Patrol will descend upon the school grounds for the annual Trunk of Treat event. It's the delight of every dental office in town! There will be enough cavity causing candy for all! Check out the allergy free section, as well. And, don't worry about fixing dinner that night because there will be no less than three food trucks on site serving yummy delights to please the palate and fill the tummy. The HSA has worked so hard to make this a great evening for all, and we are so thankful!!

So, if I might offer a small bit of advice, grab a sixteen fluid ounce cup of your favorite steaming hot pumpkin spice latte and join us!

isn't freedom at all — it is hedonistic license posing as a civil liberty. For we, as a people, even in the exercise of our freedom, do not embrace death, no matter how deep we may seem to be wading in blood. But, we as a people, do live in a society of fear, where we have put all our faith in what we think "freedom" can gain for us — thus a pregnant woman is made to think aborting her child protects her freedom, and that it is not about a child's death but about her life. Making choices from this viewpoint is doing untold damage to both the unborn and to our whole society.

60,000,000 Reasons to Respect Life. Many people have described abortion — and I concur with this description— as a Holocaust. Some 60 million children have been aborted in this nation since abortion was legalized nationally in the 1970s. And while abortion as a right was dealt with by the courts this past year — deeming that it is not a right in the way that freedom of speech is right — it was not deemed as a moral wrong, either. Rather, It was deemed a matter for local, this is state decision making. Thus, widely, especially here in Delaware and Maryland, abortion continues as usual.

Where are We? As a holocaust of children continue to be killed in abortion, as many sit by and let it happen, it reminds of a famous quote regarding the Nazi death camps, the quote can easily fit our current situation: it asks the unanswerable questions posed again and again in our time: "At Auschwitz, tell me, where was God?" The response: "Where was man?" Indeed, where were we? Similarly, in our world today, where are we in this matter of abortion?

Who is Worthy? You know, in the 1930s, the Nazis in Germany coined the chilling phrase, "*Lebensunwertes Leben*" — "lives that are not worthy of living." This was applied to Jews and Gypsies, the disabled and the despised, and anyone that stood in the way of Nazi hegemony. When man gets to decide who is and who isn't human, and who is and isn't worthy of life, the end result is usually bad. We see that in the World War II era in which German leaders defined which lives were not worthy of life. And the ruins of those Nazi concentration camps, today, still stand as monuments to human hubris and hate.

The Valley of Darkness. Pope Benedict XVI, during a visit to the Concentration Camp at Auschwitz noted, that by trying to wipe out the Jews, "the Nazis wanted ultimately to kill the God who called Abraham, who spoke on Sinai and laid down principles to serve as a guide for mankind, principles that are eternally valid." He added that humanity "walked through a valley of darkness" at Auschwitz. But even in that valley of darkness at Auschwitz, God abided, for as scripture tells us, "...even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for You are with me." So to go back to that question, "At Auschwitz, tell me, where was God?" The answer: God was there abiding with us through the valley of the shadow of death; where were we?

The Lord, the Giver of Life. And to bring this question forward to the year 2022: Where were we and where are we in this matter of abortion? As Catholics there is only one place for us to be: standing against abortion. Standing for the truth that we believe as we pray in our Creed that: "We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of Life." God, not us, gives life. And scripture today reminds us: "If we deny him, he will deny us." For those times we denied God by not standing up for the lives of the innocent, we need to seek God's mercy and forgiveness; we need to get back on the right and righteous path. The time has come to exercise *our* choice – and we are called to choose sides in this battle between the culture of life and the culture of death, between liberty and license, indeed between good and evil. But in truth there is only one true choice in this matter – to choose, to embrace, and to defend, the side of life. Mary, Mother and Model of Church, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor