



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 19, 2025

29th 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

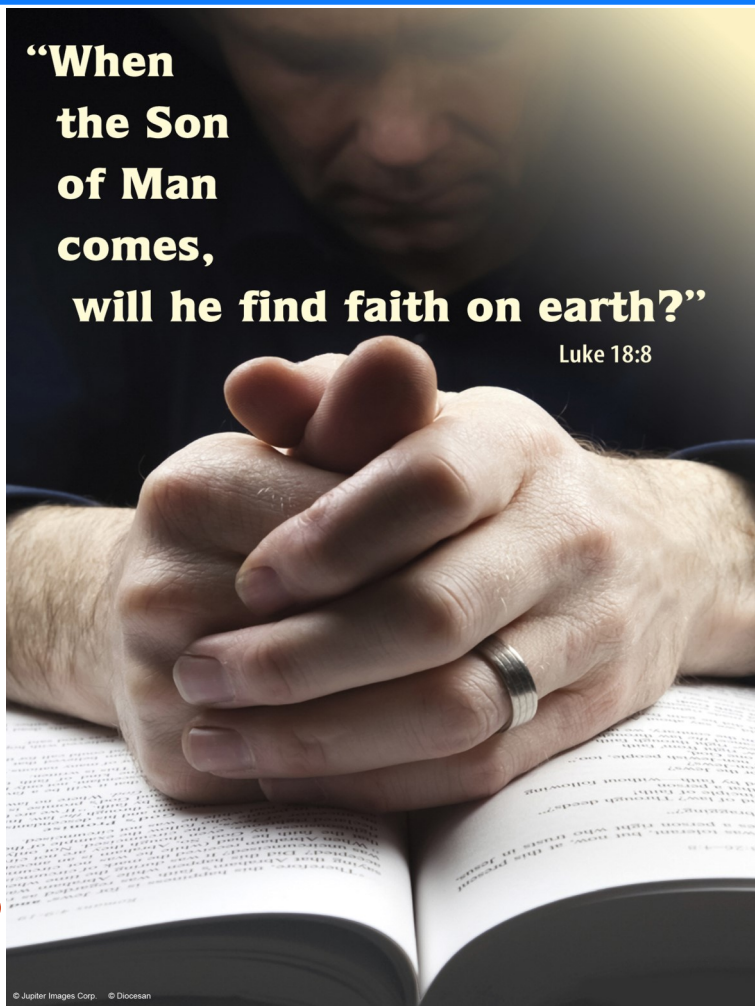
Saturday, 8:30 am – 10:00 am,
Fridays in Lent, 5:30 pm

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm

**“When
the Son
of Man
comes,
will he find faith on earth?”**

Luke 18:8



© Jupiter Images Corp. © Diocesan

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

Please see our Right to Life Table in the Gathering Space and help yourself to the pamphlets that are available.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC) Ending October 5, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$29,523	\$27,125	\$2,398
YTD	\$354,523	\$366,123	(\$11,600)
Needs	\$1,842	\$1,738	\$104

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC) Ending October 5, 2025

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,260
Second	\$712

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,

When I was younger and stupider, I used to make it a practice not to wear a coat or even a windbreaker until after Thanksgiving. This was my way of trying to -- as the Beach Boys might phrase it -- keep the illusion of an "endless summer." But, about 25 years ago or so -- I can't remember the exact year -- the Mid-Atlantic region had a bit of an early winter. It was cold by the time "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" hit the TV screens. But there I was throughout a chilly November, wearing a shirt with no sweater, no jacket, etc., pretending winter wasn't coming. It was about the middle of that November when I realized, while shivering, that one can do what one wants -- but the cold weather comes when the cold weather comes. And dressing like it's summer won't make it summer. And so I surrendered. Since then, I generally dress to match the weather and not pretend that the weather isn't what it is.

Yeah, I'm Cool. As we have had a few cooler days (actually evenings) recently, I remembered my folly of years ago. "Endless Summer" being a fantasy, I accept that mid-October means that winter-like weather lurks just around the corner, that mornings are darker, and that -- as Simon and Garfunkel would phrase it in "Bridge Over Troubled Water" -- "evening falls so hard." Yes, it is that time of the year when we prepare for colder weather and the coming of winter! Yes, when October goes, we get ready for what's coming in November, December, January, and February.

Apocalypse Now? In like manner, it is also the time of the year when the Church prepares us for what is coming -- notably in the scripture readings at Mass. As the Church moves towards the end of its year, you will note that our readings shift from relating miracles, wonders, and the great hope of Salvation to a more warning-filled, end-time oriented, apocalyptically-toned tenor. In addition, many of the first readings, especially on the weekdays, are more prolix than earlier in the Liturgical year, and in their verbiage relate prefiguration's of Christ's judgment.

Ever "Last Thing" Life. These November readings intentionally tie in with the Church's teaching of what are called "The Last Things." That phrase, "the Last Things," refers to those things that people contemplate at the end of life, and they ponder everlasting life, eternity: namely, death, judgment, Heaven, and Hell. And so, at the end of the Church year, starting in early November, the focus of the readings shifts to these "Last Things." This is intentional, as the "last things" we hear about in Scripture in the last month of the Church's liturgical year are the "last things" one likely ponders in life.

Tender, Loving Scare. These end-time readings, these apocalyptic Biblical texts, often seem scary to people (hence, a multitude of horror movies have been on the topic of the end-times). But let me be clear, these readings are not there to

scare us; they are given to us to awaken us and keep us in God's good graces. They are meant to remind us that we will one day stand before God and make an account for our lives. Here is a smattering of readings that we will hear very soon:

- **On Sunday, November 2, All Souls Day:** in the reading from St. John's Gospel, chapter 6, we hear, *"For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him, may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."* (John 6:40)
- **On Thursday, November 5 (31st Week in Ordinary Time),** the reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 14 warns us: *"For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God ... then each of us shall give an account of himself to God."* (Romans 14:10b, 12)
- **On Saturday, November 8 (31st Week in Ordinary Time),** the Gospel, from St. Luke, chapter 16, alerts us to the fact that: *"No servant can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and mammon. The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all these things and sneered at him. And he said to them, 'You justify yourselves in the sight of others, but God knows your hearts; for what is of human esteem is an abomination in the sight of God.'"* (Luke 16:13-15)
- **On Friday, November 14 (32nd Week in Ordinary Time),** the Gospel, from St. Luke, chapter 17 finds Jesus talking about the time of the Second Coming (or as our evangelical friends might call it, "the rapture"), *"So it will be on the day the Son of Man is revealed... on that night there will be two people in one bed; one will be taken, the other left. And there will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken, the other left. They said to him in reply, 'Where, Lord?' He said to them, 'Where the body is, there also the vultures will gather.'"* (Luke 17:30-37, in part)
- **On Saturday, November 15 (32nd Week in Ordinary Time),** the reading from St. Luke's Gospel, chapter 18, states ominously: *"Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones... but when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"* (Luke 18:8).
- **On Sunday, November 16 (33rd Week in Ordinary Time),** the Prophet Malachi gives a warning to evildoers, and a balm to the faithful: *"Lo, the day is coming, blazing like an oven, when all the proud and all evildoers will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire, leaving them neither root nor branch, says the LORD of hosts. But for you who*

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 26—30TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: SIRACH 35:15B-17, 20-22B

God hears humble prayer.

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

God's faithfulness is keenly felt by those who devotedly witness to the Kingdom.

GOSPEL: LUKE 18:9-14

Jesus tells a story of two very different approaches to prayer in the Temple: a Pharisee boasts while a tax collector begs for mercy.

RECENTLY DECEASED

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

- Harry Joseph Pomrink
- Edward Brauchle

SAMARITAN'S FOOD PANTRY

Thank you for providing food to 1795 Families (4094 Adults, 4149 Children) during the previous 12 months (October 2024 - September 2025).

The pantry is in need of the following items: 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 (freezer) behind the rectory.

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. All orders need to be in by October 26.

SILVER ROSE

The Knights of Columbus Council 4182 will be hosting the Silver Rose procession at Immaculate Conception on Thursday, October 30th at 6:00 pm as part of the Silver Rose pilgrimage from Canada to Mexico. Every stop the Silver Rose makes throughout the pilgrimage is a rosary-centered occasion for Knights, parishioners and community members to pray for respect for life, for the spiritual renewal of each nation, and for the advancement of the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe. All parishioners are invited to attend.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. This week, writer and podcaster Lauren Enriquez, will discuss ways to help those with ADHD get more out of Mass. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceesofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoon at 1:30.

HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSES

- Discover Holy Cross High School!**
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.
- Join Saint Mark's High School for Open House** on Sunday, **October 26** from 12:30pm until 3:30pm. This is a great opportunity to learn about our Catholic identity, faith formation, academic programs, unmatched learning environments, visual and performing arts programs, clubs, extracurricular activities, athletics, and more. Faculty, staff, club moderators, coaches, and parent ambassadors will be available to answer your questions and share their experiences in the Spartan community. Most importantly, our amazing students will provide tours and discuss what it means to be a Spartan with all of our prospective families! Register today at www.stmarkshs.net/admissions/campus-visits or call 302-757-8721.

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)
Thursday, November 20, 2025; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

MASS INTENTION OCTOBER

20 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Arminda Galarza

21 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Todd Sheldon

22 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:15 am Louis H. Jara

23 THURSDAY

HC 8:00 am DM Smith and Mikas Families
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

24 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am John Ksianzyk

25 SATURDAY

HC 8:00 pm Marian Green
HC 5:00 pm Manual Fernandez Vara

26 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Carl Wengerter (LI)
ICC 8:30 am Veronica Kriss
HC 9:30 am Josephine & Daniel Uwaifo
ICC 11:00 am Teresa Camino
HC 1:00 pm Philippe Felix, Micheline Jean
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

Oct 19-25 Sanctuary Candle in Church is for the intention of healing of Rosemary Solomon (LI).

Oct 19-25 Sanctuary Candle in the Adoration Chapel is for the intention of Bill Muffley.

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

OCTOBER 25/26, 2025

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

P. Gerard
C. Helwig

D. Kaltenbaugh
M. King

F. Urick
S. Winfrey

LECTORS

M. Wenck
L. Curley

7:30 AM

A. Fischer
J. Fischer

S. Gede
M. Jacobs

E. Costa
M. Costa
S. Murawski

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM

S. Cordiee
D. Martinez

S. Ford
P. Ford

G. Hawk
J. Hawk

LECTORS

J. Lausten
M. Lausten

11:30 AM

T. Hernandez
E. Pastoriza

M. Richard

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM

B. Casey

LECTORS

D. Smith

11:00 AM

J. Carrow

LECTORS

A. Poppiti



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

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 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.

KENT CHAMBER CHOIR

Join the Kent Chamber Choir for its Fall Concert, Harvest of Song. Artistic Director Rocky Tejada will conduct the concert on Sunday October 19, 2025, 4pm, at the Presbyterian Church of Dover (54. S. State). Tickets are \$15 (students \$5, w/ ID; children 12 & under, free) and are available on www.kentchamberchoir.org or at the door.

This is a unique presentation; the choir will be intensely rehearsing the music only on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and then presenting the concert on Sunday. It is always a wonderful performance.

Mark your calendar for Kent Chamber Choir's next performance: Winter Concert on December 13th at 4pm at the Presbyterian Church.

Felicitaciones a tyodos los adultos que recibieron el Sacramento de la Confirmacion el domingo pasado y nuestro agradecimiento a todos que ayudaron con los preparativos y la formacion.

Preparemonos para el Adviento: Qué es el Adviento?La palabra “Adviento” viene del latín adventus, que quiere decir “venida” y se asocia con las cuatro semanas de preparación para la Navidad. El adviento siempre incluye cuatro domingos y empieza desde el domingo más cercano a la fiesta de San Andrés Apóstol (30 de noviembre) y continúa hasta el 24 de diciembre. Es un tiempo de preparación para celebrar la Encarnación del Hijo de Dios en Navidad. Así como cada año la Navidad parece empezar con más anticipación en lo comercial, los fieles deben tratar de preparar el corazón para acercarse más al Señor.

Nuestro Retiro de Adviento: 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.

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 Catolicos.Quedan todos invitados a conocer y a profundizar mas en su Fe catolica.

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

ICC

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA DEL ICC:

Primera Reconciliación : Sesion #3El martes 28 de octubre de 6:30 – 7:30 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@iccmaryl.org para cualquier pregunta.

Confirmación: La Primera sesión es este domingo 19 de octubre, 3-5:30pm en el salón. Por favor comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 o email to dre@iccmaryl.org para cualquier pregunta.

La Rosa de Plata nos visita el domingo 30 de Octubre, estará en nuestra parroquia a las 6:00pm, venga y comparte conlos Caballeros de Colon y juntos rezaremos el Santo Rosario. Quedan todos invitados.

REGISTRATION FOR THE 2025-26

Next Class:

October 20th (Grades Kindergarten – 4th grade) or October 21st (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 7 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)

Class today 10/19.

November classes are 11/2 and 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@holycrossover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122 for further information.

+++++

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

Confirmation Classes:

Our next class takes place: Sunday, Oct. 26 5-6:30 pm in the Parish Hall or Wednesday, Oct. 29 from 6-7:30 pm in the Matthew Mark Room. Parents are invited to attend this class.

Youth Group:

High School youth group will meet Sunday, Oct. 26 from 6:45-8 pm in the Luke room of the ELC building. All are welcome.

MOUNT 2000:

February 6-8, 2026 at Mt. St. Mary's University. Open to all high school teens. Please save your spot by contacting Mrs. Darling—ldarling@holycrossover.org

CHECK OUT THESE LINKS:

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



In English:

Father Mike Schmitz

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



In Spanish:

Fray Sergio Serrano

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



+++++

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ICC

First Reconciliation Prep session #3 is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, please contact Alicia Poppiti if your child did not attend or you missed the parents meeting.

Confirmation Prep session #2 is scheduled for Sunday, November 16, 3-5:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Please contact Alicia Poppiti at 410-482-8939 or email: dre@iccmaryl.org with any questions..

Another week has passed, and it is hard to believe we are already in the middle of October. This week was a bit shorter since we were off on Monday, giving everyone a chance to rest and re-charge. Tuesday and Wednesday were calm and productive as we eased back into our routines after the long weekend.

On Thursday, our entire school community came together to celebrate Mass with Bishop Koenig. We were honored to welcome him, along with members of the Catholic Schools Office, as we joined in prayer and worship. It is always a special experience for our students to gather as one school family to celebrate the liturgy, and even more meaningful when our bishop leads us. We are deeply grateful to Bishop Koenig for his leadership, his presence, and the time he spent visiting with our students after Mass. The students were especially excited to greet him as they returned to their classrooms.

At Holy Cross, we spend time helping students understand the structure of our Church and the many roles that make up our faith community. While our students are blessed to interact daily with both our priests and deacons, it is a wonderful and memorable experience for them to meet and pray with the bishop, the shepherd of our diocese. We thank Bishop Koenig for joining us and for the inspiration he brings to our school.

Friday was filled with joy and fellowship. Our students participated in a special dress-down day in recognition of October as Respect Life Month, wearing pastel colors to honor the beauty and dignity of all life. We also held our new annual New Student Breakfast in the cafeteria. All students who joined Holy Cross this year were invited to enjoy breakfast with me, our school counselor, and one another. The goal of this gathering is to check in, share experiences, and ensure that every new Crusader feels welcomed, valued, and supported as part of our school family. It was a wonderful opportunity to hear directly from our students about their transition and to celebrate the sense of community that defines Holy Cross.

Looking ahead, next week promises to be a busy and exciting one. We will be wrapping up our Early Childhood Pumpkin Drive—thank you to everyone who has already donated pumpkins to help create our preschool pumpkin patch. We are still in need of a few more pumpkins before the drive ends on Tuesday. In addition, we are proud to be partnering with Bayhealth Hospital for our Coat Drive. Through this partnership, we are collecting new and gently used coats to support individuals and families in need within our community. Coats can be dropped off throughout next week and will be delivered to Bayhealth for distribution. Thank you for helping us share warmth and kindness with others as the colder months approach.

Our new Math Club, Crazy 8's, will meet for the first time next week, and we have several special events including a kindergarten field trip, the National Junior Honor Society Induction, a staff retreat and professional development day with schools across our diocese, and visits from local high schools. We will finish the week with our Home and School Association's Trunk or Treat on Friday evening, a favorite tradition for many of our families.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership. We are blessed to share this faith-filled journey with such a vibrant and caring community.

Thank you, and God bless.

Mrs. O'Mara

fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays” (Malachi 3:19-20a)

- **On Sunday, November 16 (33rd Week in Ordinary Time)**, the Gospel from St. Luke, chapter 21, speaks about the sign of the coming of the end times: *“Then they asked him... ‘what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?’ He answered... ‘Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky. Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name... You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance, you will secure your lives.”* (Luke 21:7-8a, 10-12, 17-19)
- **On Thursday, November 20 (33rd Week in Ordinary Time)**, Jesus tells the women of Jerusalem, *“For the days are coming upon you when your enemies will raise a palisade against you; they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides. They will smash you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another within you because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”* (Luke 19:43-44)
- **On Saturday, November 29 (34th Week in Ordinary)**, the Prophet Daniel gets quite apocalyptic in Chapter 7, and warns that there will be a “fourth beast” that will be a “fourth kingdom on earth different from all the others; It shall devour the whole earth, beat it down, and crush it... He shall speak against the Most High and oppress the holy ones of the Most High.” (Daniel 7: 23-25, in part)
- **On Sunday, November 30 (First Sunday of Advent)**, the Book of Revelation, Chapter 1, gives us a prophetic foretelling of the Second Coming of Christ. It reminds us that all people will be called to account: *“Therefore, stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let his house be broken into. So too, you also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”* (Matthew 24:42-44, in part)

The King’s Speech. In the midst of all of this, on the Solemnity of Christ the King (the last Sunday before Advent begins), we hear a reading from St. John’s Gospel, Chapter 18, that we’d expect to hear in Lent. It is shortly before his Crucifixion, and Jesus remind Pilate and us: *“For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”* (John 18:37). This puts all of those apocalyptic words we hear in November in context: Christ is telling us the truth: He is here to make us know of God’s kingdom, and how we get there.

Reminder. This reminds us of Luke 21:19, as noted earlier, *“By your perseverance you will secure your lives.”* Or as we hear in the Gospel on Tuesday, November 18, *“the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”* (Luke 19:10). So don’t fear these apocalyptic readings, for they are not a travelogue of a horror that awaits you but rather a road map to help you away from it.

Beginning. These readings will carry us to the start of the new Church year in Advent (on November 30), when the theme of Jesus’ Second Coming as our judge becomes prevalent.

Buzzkill? These end-of-the-year readings are part of our faith life; I know many people do not want to ponder these things, thinking they are a “buzzkill,” as some might say today. But much like me not wanting to acknowledge winter-like weather has come, and that a season has changed, so, too, we — try as we may to avoid it — have faced the truth of the “Last Things.”

When October Goes. And so, as we approach both the change of weather as well as the change of the tone of our scripture readings, when November begins, I am reminded of a song called “When October Goes” (recorded in the 1980s by Barry Manilow). The song’s lyrics lament: *“I should be over it now I know / It doesn’t matter much / How old I grow / I hate to see October go.”* Like it or not: It’s time to get ready for November!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor