

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

September 10, 2023

23rd 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

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

icc



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Again, [amen,] I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father.”

Matthew 18:19

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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.

EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF COMMUNION AT HOLY CROSS

We are in need of more volunteers who would be willing to be trained and become an EMHC for Mass and/or for the sick and homebound. Consider this important ministry. Please pray and discern if this ministry is right for you.

A training class will be held on Monday, October 9 at 6 pm or on Tuesday, October 10, at 9:30 am, both in the church. Prospective volunteers can come to either on of these classes. Please call the Parish Office to sign up for either class so we can order the proper supplies to have on hand.

Requirements are to be at least 21 years, old, be fully initiated in the Catholic Church, and if married, validly married withing the laws of the church.

This training will include instructions for EMHC at Mass and for the homebound/facility ministry. If you are a current minister but have not been recertified, please come to take this refresher course. We definitely need your back!! If you are considering this ministry, please come to see what it's all about. We need you!!

Please call the Parish Office at Holy Cross to sign up for the class. If you have any questions, we will be happy to answer them also.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending August 27, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$20,721	\$26,180	(\$5,459)
YTD	\$201,119	\$210,420	(\$9,301)
Needs	\$2,113	\$1,712	\$401

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending August 27,2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,646
Second Collection	\$494

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,

Couched between this Sunday (Sept. 10) and next Sunday (Sept. 17), on September 14, is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. It is a great feast for our one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church, and in a special way for Holy Cross Parish, as it is the parish's Patronal Feast day. Please note that in addition to the weekday (8 a.m.) Mass at Holy Cross on Thursday, September 14, we will also celebrate that patronal feast on Sunday, September 17 (and at the anticipated [vigil] Mass on Saturday, September 16). Also, note that this year, Holy Cross celebrates its 123rd anniversary.

Meanwhile, in Marydel. To my friends at Marydel who are reading this, I ask you to share the joy of the people of Holy Cross this weekend as they celebrate their patronal feast, and they will share your joy when you celebrate your feast of the Immaculate Conception in December.

This weekend, I am going to focus my Pastor's Column on the subject of the history of this great feast day – its meaning, its significance, and its origins.

Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Thursday, September 14, is the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (at Holy Cross, this Feast is also being observed on Sunday, September 17, in accord with it being the Parish's Patronal Feast). While it is, of course, the patronal feast day and a solemnity ("high holy day") for Holy Cross Parish (just as the Immaculate Conception on December 8 is the patronal feast and solemnity for Immaculate Conception in Marydel), it is also a high-ranking and important feast day throughout the entire universal Church for every member of the faithful. Since the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a significant holy day of the Church year, I make a point each year to give a reminder about the background and basis for what this special day celebrates and observes.

Cross Reference. So, what exactly does the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorate? Some might think – based on the name of this holy day – that this is the day we commemorate Christ's death on the cross for our sins. Or perhaps we celebrate the conquest of death and sin through the cross of our Lord. Well, in truth, while those are beautiful ways to reflect on the Cross, neither of those considerations is the basis for this feast day.

Not So Mighty Aphrodite. The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, in fact, has more to do with St. Helena and Emperor Heraclius, than anything else. So, let us step into the Wayback Machine and set the dial for 326 A.D. That year, St. Helena, the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine, went on a pilgrimage to

the Holy Lands to visit the key sites connected to Christ's life, death, and resurrection. One of her first stops was at an abandoned temple dedicated to the Greek goddess Aphrodite. It was said that this temple was built over the sepulcher (tomb) in which Christ's body was reposed following his death on the Cross.

At Cross Purposes. Emperor Constantine decreed that this temple should be torn down and that a Church dedicated as "The Church of the Holy Sepulcher" should be built. And so, it was. While starting work on the new Church, some excavation was done, and three crosses were found buried under the site of the tomb. Evidence indicated that these were the crosses from Calvary from Good Friday; they had likely been buried to protect them from the Roman authorities in the time after the Crucifixion. One of the crosses that was found healed a diseased woman who touched it; this miraculous cure served as evidence that this was the Cross on which hung the Savior of the world. Upon completion of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, a portion of that most holy Cross was placed inside it and raised up (exalted) for all to see. That Church was dedicated, and people were invited to venerate the Cross on September 14, 326 A.D. It is this event that we celebrate on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Return to Sender. In 614 A.D., Persia invaded Jerusalem. Persian Emperor Khosrau II decided that as the ultimate jab at the power of the Christian-based Byzantine Empire, he would have his men seize the true Cross and take it to Persia. And that's what he did. This caused much grief and more agita, along with wailing and gnashing of teeth, by the Christians and the leaders of the Byzantine Empire of the day. Upon the death of Khosrau in 628 A.D., it was announced by his successor that the Cross would be returned to Jerusalem. And so, it was! In 629 A.D., the Byzantine Emperor, Heraclius, received the Cross in Constantinople (which was like the Washington, D.C. of the Byzantine world, but without the 6% sales tax) and then returned it to Jerusalem.

Carry On! It is said that upon the Cross arriving in Jerusalem, Heraclius took it upon his back and carried it the rest of the way to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. When the Emperor went to carry the Cross into the Church, a mystical force

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

ICC STAFF

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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL

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

Linda Pollitt	Principal, ext. 111
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

HOLY CROSS NOVENA

The novena in honor of the Holy Cross continues this week through Thursday, Sept. 14, at 7 pm.

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

When Jesus was approached by those who wished to become disciples, he invited them to "...come and see," that is to come and be with me and my disciples for a while. Walk with us – learn who we are. Then make your decision to become a disciple.

Pope John Paul II said, "It is not enough to discover Christ – you must bring him to others!" The words of our Holy Father should encourage us to reach out to a neighbor, friend, relative and co-worker. If they do not have a church home, invite them to consider Holy Cross.

We are already making contact and responding to those who are interested in journeying with us to discover more about the Catholic Christian experience. Even if you have asked someone before and they have passed up the opportunity, today may be the time that the Holy Spirit has chosen for them. Invite them to discover at no obligation what the Catholic Church is really all about. Classes started in August on Sunday mornings at 9AM in the Early Learning Center. For more information, contact the Parish Office, 302 674-5787 extension 110.

SVDP MEETING AT ICC

The next St. Vincent de Paul meeting will be on Monday, September 11, at 5 pm in the office conference room at ICC in Marydel.

24TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (SEPT 17)

FIRST READING: ECCLESIASTICUS 27:30—28:7

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner.

SECOND READING: ROMANS: 14:7-9

The life and eath of each of us has its influence on others.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:21-35

Peter asks how many times he must forgive someone who wrongs him. Jesus replies, "Not seven ... but seventy-seven times".

THANKS TO THE GOLF LEAGUE

The Holy Cross Golf League held a highly successful tournament/fundraiser on August 30. The organizing committee of Phil Spampinato, Wes Grau and Greg Coury want to thank the league players and our sponsors for helping us raise another \$3000 for the Catholic Heart Work Camp.

LITTLE BOOKS

Immaculate Conception is taking orders for the Little Reflection books for the various liturgical seasons, Advent, Lent & Easter. The total cost is \$5.00 for the set. Orders and payment can be taken at HC or ICC Parish offices. All who wish to purchase must place their order by October 15.

HOLY CROSS SCHOOL CRAFT FAIR

We are looking for vendors to participate in our upcoming Fall Craft Fair on November 18, 2023. If interested please email HAS@holycrossdover.org.

Holy Cross School
FALL CRAFT FAIR
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

10:00am-2:00pm
Holy Cross Gymnasium
631 S State Street, Dover, DE 19901

- *craft vendors
- *food trucks
- *kid activities
- *silent auction
- *bake sale

****please bring cash, not all vendors accept credit cards****

Sponsored by Holy Cross School HSA
Interested in being a vendor or volunteer?
Email: HSA@holycrossdover.org

RETROUVILLE

Some couples feel lonely, frustrated, or angry in their marriage, often feeling shut off from one another. Other couples experience severe conflict and never-ending arguments. Retrouville offers hope for all these marriages by teaching couples to communicate in a deeper, more meaningful way, healing hurts and rebuilding trust and intimacy. No relationship is beyond help. The next program will be held October 6 - 8, 2023 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more info or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

MASS INTENTIONS SEPTEMBER

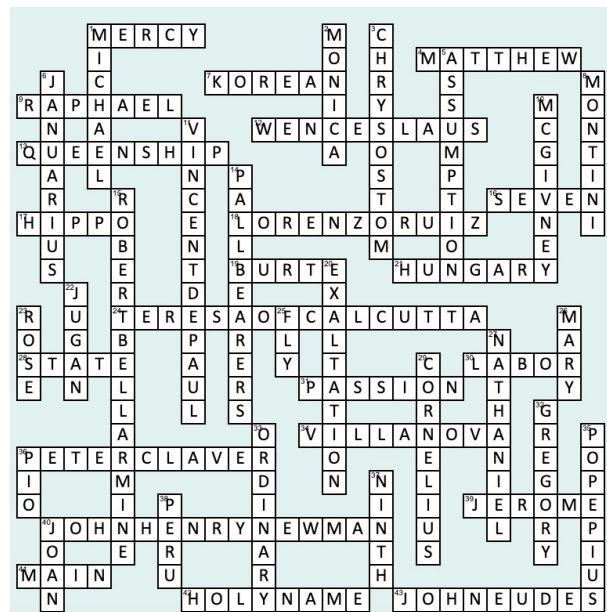
- 11 MONDAY**
HC 8:00 am DM Ryan Family
- 12 TUESDAY**
HC 8:00 am Alfredo Chas
- 13 WEDNESDAY**
HC 8:15 am Frank and Mary Coyle
- 14 THURSDAY**
HC 8:00 am Alan Molina
HC 9:30 am Anna Fox
ICC 6:00 pm For the People
- 15 FRIDAY**
HC 8:00 am Lawrence Peer
- 16 SATURDAY**
HC 8:00 am Mark Tigani, Jr.
HC 5:00 pm Clair Zaragoza
- 17 SUNDAY**
HC 7:30 am Jim Clougherty
ICC 8:30 am Devin & Smith Families
HC 9:30 am Vern Bresnahan
ICC 11:00 am Keith DeFrancesco
HC 11:30 am Gracie and Angela Ricci
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)

THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHAPEL FOR SEPT 10-16 IS FOR DELORES ROSSETTI.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHURCH FOR SEPT 10-16 IS FOR PAULA JACKSON VOSHELL.

Answers to Last Week's Puzzle Are Below:



SEPT 16/17, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM P. Gerard M. Sirolli A. Torbert
C. Helwig N. Sirolli B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

L. Christiansen
D. Dixon

7:30 AM P. Jackson R. O'Neill A. Costa
M. Jacobs A. Wyllie E. Costa
M. Costa

LECTORS

R. Pritchett

9:30 AM P. Ford C. Jones A. Wilk
F. Hanlin K Kelly C. Wilk
R. Willemin

LECTORS

M. Sherlock
S. Winfrey

11:30 AM T. Hernandez R. Richard TBD
E. Patoriza

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

G. Godfrey

8:30 AM

LECTORS

K. Cairns

M. Soule

11:00 AM

LECTORS

L. Soule

1:00 PM TBD

If you or someone from your family is going to be in one of our local rehabilitation facilities or nursing homes, our Extra-Ordinary ministers of Holy Communion serve all of these facilities. If you are going to be in one of these facilities, even for a short time, please be sure to register yourself as a Catholic so that you will be on their list for our ministers to bring you the Eucharist on the weekend. All the facilities are very cooperative and will gladly add the name to the list for our ministers each week.

If you are in the hospital make sure you are on their Catholic list so we can have our ministers bring you communion daily. You must inform the hospital to put you on the Catholic list otherwise we do not know you are there.

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.

Call John Murphy at 302-233-1779 or email him at jkm2015@verizon.net to schedule.



SUNDAY 4 pm, 5pm, 8 pm

MONDAY 5 pm

TUESDAY 5 am, 8 pm

WEDNESDAY 7 am

FRIDAY 6 am

SATURDAY 5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm,
1 pm, 2 pm

KNITTING GROUP

If you enjoy knitting or crocheting and fellowship, join the Prayer Shawl Ministry. We meet on Tuesday mornings from 10 am to Noon in the St. Look Room of the Early Learning Center Building. Please come join us to see what we are all about.

COMING SOON—OKTOBERFEST AT ST. JOHN'S

30th Annual Oktoberfest at St. John the Apostle, Milford is scheduled for October 6th from 6 PM to 10 PM and October 7th from 12 PM to 10 PM. Lots of good ethnic foods, good music and good fun for all ages. For more information please call Bonnie at 302-236-5296.

SAMARITANS NEED MORE DONATIONS

Thanks to your generosity, this year we were able to provide food to 626 families, (1304 adults, 1559 children) totaling 2863 people.

When shopping please consider donating a few of the following foods:

Peanut Butter and Jelly, Canned Ravioli / Chili / Beef Stew, Canned Vegetables / Soups / Chunky Soups, Spaghetti / Sauce, Mac and Cheese

Tuna/small packs of Hamburger, & Tuna/ Hamburger Helper, Ramen Noodles, Dried Beans / Rice , and Massa for the Hispanics.

Please drop the food in the Pantry Food Drop Box in the building behind the Rectory. We have a new green sign near the drop box door.

- **El día 10 de septiembre** después de la misa tendremos una hora Santa con Exposición del Santísimo. Es una de las actividades que nuestra parroquia está haciendo en el Año del Avivamiento Eucarístico. El Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional es un movimiento para restaurar y avivar la comprensión y la devoción a este gran misterio, ayudándonos a renovar nuestra adoración a Jesucristo Sacramentado. Jesucristo Presencia Real en la Eucaristía, que muchos católicos no creen y por eso se está promoviendo en todo el país la presencia real de Jesús sacramentado que es la fuente y cumbre de nuestra fe .
- Venga y quédese una hora más con Jesús que nos da todo lo que tenemos y que no merecemos, es por puro amor por nosotros.
- **Festival Hispano y Cuadrangular de Fútbol** El domingo 17 de Septiembre celebraremos la clausura de nuestras fiesta patronales y el comienzo de nuestra Herencia Hispana con un Festival de Comida y un Cuadrangular de futbol, venga y apoye nuestro evento. Si desea colaborar donando, su tiempo y talento hable con cualquier de los miembros de la Junta directiva o llame a la oficina parroquial al 302-674-5787 ext.118.
- **El Foro Cristiano:** Comienza el viernes, 8 de septiembre de 6:00PM hasta las 8:00PM. Venga y fórmese para poder defender su Fe Católica, esto será un curso de formación que termina el día 2 de junio 2024. El tema de este año es sobre “ El Misterio Eucarístico” que sin duda es el centro de nuestra FE, de la Liturgia Sagrada y sobre todo de la vida cristiana.
- **Confirmación de Adultos:** El día 15 de Octubre tendremos la Confirmación de adultos, si usted es mayor de 18 años y no está confirmado por favor hable con el Sr. Luna para las clases. O llame a la oficina para anotarse.
- **La Virgen Peregrina** esta visitado casas. Si desea que la imagen de la virgen visite su hogar por una semana por favor de anotarse con la Sra. Martha Espinosa.
- **Educación Religiosa:** Inscriba a su niño para la Educación Religiosa que ya están abiertas. Si su hijo(a) no está asistiendo a una escuela católica debe de inscribirse en Las aplicaciones están en línea estarán llenando inscripciones después de la misa.
- **Comparta sus dones y Carismas:** Todo lo que tenemos es un regalo de Dios, y como cristianos tenemos la obligación de compartir esos dones que tenemos para la honra y gloria del Señor y para con el prójimo. Si usted desea servir en algún ministerio por favor hable con la Sra. Arline Dosman al 302-674-5787 ext. 118 o con uno de los miembros servidores de la Junta Directiva.

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ICC

- **Educación Religiosa:** Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa para el año escolar 2023-2024 ya están abiertas. Inscriba a sus hijos ahora, para que podamos planificar en consecuencia. Las tarifas son de \$60 por 1 niño, \$120 por 2 niños, \$180 por 3 niños y \$200 por más de 4 niños. Después del 1 de julio habrá una tarifa adicional de \$10 por niño. Las clases comienzan el domingo 24 de septiembre de 2023.
- **Se necesitan voluntarios.** Si usted o alguien que conoce está interesado en ser voluntario, ser un líder de pares para la Educación Religiosa o la Preparación para la Confirmación, comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti @ dre@iccmaryl.org o 410-482-8939.
- **La Inmaculada Concepción agradece:** ¡ A todos los que ayudaron, donaron y participaron, en la semana de Estudio Bíblico de Verano, tuvimos una semana espectacular.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Please go to the following link to register for religious education classes. <https://holycrossdover.org/teaching-the-faith/christian-formation/k-8-formation> If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at either (302) 674-5787 X 122 or email tkorosec@holycrossdover.org

K-8 Classes begin tonight, September 10th and begin promptly at 3:00. Please arrive a few minutes early to pick up book, room assignment and to find room. Do not drop students off in front of door. Please park and walk them up to entrance.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

One of the promises that parents make at their child’s Baptism is to bring their child up in the practice of the Faith. In doing so parents play the key role in educating their children in the practice of the Faith.

LAFF, Living as a Family of Faith. How is your Faith growing; personally, and as a family? Learn more about our Faith and the Catholic Church. Come out and join us; families gathering for prayer, communion with one another, sharing our Faith Life experiences. Bring your Bible with you. You’re invited to join us in becoming a Family of Faith. We meet on the second and forth Sundays of the month at 10:30 AM on the second floor of the Early Learning Center.

Please go to the CCD link above to register for the LAFF program using the religious education form. If you have any questions, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY (HC)

In recognition of the Eucharist Revival that is continuing, Deacon Bob will be presenting a weekly study program that focuses on the Eucharist. He will be presenting from different programs so you can receive a deeper understanding of the Real Presence. The class will begin with Bishop Barron’s The Eucharist: Sacred Meal, Sacrifice, Real Presence. He will also bring information from Dr. Scott Hahn and others. Classes will begin on September 19th and will continue each Tuesday up to Advent. Classes will be offered at 9:00am or 7:00pm in the Matthew Mark room in the Holy Parish Office. This is a free class. No workbooks will be distributed however other resources may be used. If interested in registering for the class please email Tam-

my Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Preparation Classes:
Sunday, September 10 from 3-5 pm and Wednesday, September 13 from 6-7:30 pm

Makeup Parent Meeting for Confirmation: Sunday, September 10 3 pm Luke room - 2nd floor ELC

SRE AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Registration for Religious Education for the 2023-2024 school year are now open. Classes begin on Sunday, September 24, 2023 and run thru May 3, 2024.

Please get your children registered now, so that we may plan accordingly. Fees are now \$60 for 1 child, \$120 for 2 children, \$180 for 3 children and \$200 for more than 4 children.

Volunteers needed! If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, being a peer leader for Religious Education or Confirmation Preparation team member, please contact: Alicia Poppiti @ dre@icmarydel.org or 410-482-8939.

Sacramental Preparation for 1st Reconciliation/ Communion, Confirmation and OCIA/RICA for youth are online. Please fill out and return.

Sacramental meeting for: 1st Reconciliation/ Communion is on: Tues. September 19, @7:00pm in hall or Sun., Sept. 24, 2023 @2:30pm in hall.

Confirmation: Tues. Sep. 26 @7pm Hall or Sun. Oct. 1, 2023 2 noon or 2:30pm Office & Hall

ADULT FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES
<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/catechisminayear>

In English:

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



In Spanish:

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



It's called the Three Day Weekend Act. It is a piece of legislation signed into law in the year 1968 by the 36th President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson. Known as H.R. (House of Representatives) 15951, it became a law in deference to the nation's employers in an effort to avoid the chopped up week caused by a Federal holiday falling mid-week. As a student, I recall having mixed feelings about the three-day weekend concept because I rather looked forward to having a mid-week day off from school. My feelings on the subject have changed over the years. I now look forward to the three, oh.... those glorious three consecutive days off. I go home on Friday afternoon with all kinds of plans to get lots of work done.

Last weekend we enjoyed our first three-day respite of the academic year. I couldn't help but overhear a brief back and forth between two of our students as we walked along the concrete pathway one day right after the start of school. One of the students said that "Labor Day is supposed to be the unofficial end of summer;" his friend responded, "not for us." For us, the unofficial end of summer occurs a little before Labor Day when we return to school during the final week of August. And, even though we might have only been in school for a week, everyone looks forward to the three-day weekend commemorating the achievements of the American worker.

Labor Day, along with Columbus Day, Memorial Day, President's Day, and Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday all mark three-day observances of important events in our nation's history.

Significant events warrant more than a one-day observance. At Holy Cross, these days away from school are more than just an opportunity to sleep-in. Before the first foot hits the bus step, before the backpack is tossed in the family vehicle, and before the Friday afternoon dismissal bell tolls our students have been the happy recipients of meaningful instruction on the reason why this particular day has been set aside for observance. Stories have been read, songs have been sung, essays have been written, pictures have been drawn, short skits have been presented before classmates; all of which center on the reason for the upcoming Monday off. Our students learn about the sacrifices made by the fallen heroes in battle, the contributions made by Presidents Washington and Lincoln in the building of our nation, and the life cut short of the man, Dr. King who sacrificed much in his quest for peace among peoples in our land.

It is the traditional approach to instruction that our families value, it is the traditional approach that prospective families are grateful for as we discuss the culture, the curriculum, and the values of HCS. They breathe a sigh of relief when I tell them that we still teach cursive handwriting and that their children will have nightly homework, and that daily prayer and weekly Mass attendance is interwoven into the fabric of our existence as a school. We have been in school for one week and inquiries into enrollment are still being received. The prospective parents are grateful for the opportunity to enroll their children in a school where they will be safe, and although I tell them we are not perfect, I can assure them that we are not flawed.

But not everyone can follow through on their quest for better. It's sad to hear that when Mrs. Arndt, in her effort to contact families to offer assistance in the completion of their enrollment process has been told that the personal finances cannot bear the burden of tuition costs. There are those who have been forced to forego the Pre-K years in their attempt to save money for Kindergarten. And there are those who feel that no sacrifice is too great---who work extra shifts, or have more than one job. Oftentimes, extended family members are more than willing to support the family in their pursuit of a Catholic education. It is in these times more than ever before that the safe environment and quality education provided by Catholic schools is so very critical in the upbringing of a child.

Who among us can look into the face and a child and say no?

As a diocese, we come to you once a year. As a diocese the realization and understanding of family financial need is the reason for the annual Share in the Spirit weekend. The last weekend of September is when the campaign will run, when parishioners will be asked to consider giving a monetary gift to aid in the support of a child who deserves, as much as any other child, the priceless opportunity of a Catholic education. All of the Masses in all of the parishes in the Diocese of Wilmington will participate in the Share in the Spirit weekend. Significant causes warrant a weekend observance; the last weekend of September has been set aside for this special cause. There is a price, it's called tuition; but the reward; the end result, is priceless. Even the smallest gift given by many can make a difference.

There is no day off on the calendar for this event. This event, like most, comes once a year. But this event requires more advance notice than others. There's not any great hoorah, no celebratory festivity, or formal gatherings associated with this weekend event. No one is going to say "hey, don't forget next week is Share in the Spirit Weekend....yahooo!" There's no anticipatory countdown of days. Believe me when I say that it's an important observance, nonetheless. Even the smallest gift can make a difference. Then, the next time you see one of ours in their Holy Cross uniform you can get that warm feeling all over because you know you did your part.

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held him back. The Patriarch (Archbishop) of Jerusalem counseled the emperor to divest himself of his regal garments and dress in peasant-like, penitential garb instead. The Emperor did this and then was easily able to carry the Cross into the sanctuary of the Church and lay it to rest there. I mention this story of Emperor Heraclius because it is held that this feast day celebrates not just St. Helena's finding of the Cross and building and dedicating the Church of the Holy Sepulcher as its place of repose, but also celebrates the restoration of the Cross in that Church by Heraclius.

The Instrument of Salvation. Whatever the case of the basis for this feast, it can be said with some certainty that the driving force behind the actions of St. Helena in the fourth century and Emperor Heraclius in the eighth century was the salvific value of that Holy Cross because on it once hung our Savior Jesus Christ. It is the Son of God who made that Cross not just an instrument of execution but rather a sign of salvation for a mankind that was hoary with sin and desperately sought a Messiah.

Meanwhile, 1,696 Years Later. Holy Cross Parish is blessed to have a relic (a small remnant) of that True Cross found by St. Helena. And at the end of Masses at Holy Cross this weekend – as is a custom in the Catholic Church – the Priest will give his final blessing with that relic of the True Cross. And we are then connected historically, not just to the events at Calvary in 33 A.D., but also to the decisive actions of St. Helena. Just as the people on September 14, 326 A.D., gathered to venerate that Cross, so too, 1,694 years later, we are likewise awed with this holy relic and give thanks and praise to God for the good that was wrought on that Cross by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Illumination of the Cross. Whether you are from Marydel or Dover, you have all seen, at Holy Cross Church, that enormous stained-glass window of the cross. Each night, that cross is illuminated in the darkness of night and shines the image of salvation upon all of Dover. That Cross has been described as the statement on State Street. That is correct; it is a statement. That cross, that Holy Cross, is a statement that pushes back the wilderness and faithlessness of our world and builds the city of God; that Holy Cross is a statement that says life has meaning, death has been conquered, and that we are never alone in the wilderness and faithlessness of this world.

Special Note. While we celebrate this holy feast day of the Exaltation of the Cross (also commonly known as Feast of the Holy Cross) on September 14 in Mexico, Central America, and South America, this feast day is celebrated on May 3. "What's up with that?" you may ask. Here's the story: As I noted, September 14 marks the date that the Holy Cross was exalted — raised up — in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which was also dedicated on that same day. That is the basis of this holy day's placement on September 14. However, May 3 was deemed the date that St. Helena found the Holy Cross, so for many years, that date was the day the Church celebrated the Feast of the Holy Cross (originally the feast day of the Finding of the Holy Cross). Later, this event and the events of September 14 (the exaltation) were wrapped up into the one September feast. However, many countries worldwide, especially those in Central and South America, still celebrate this feast on the May 3 date.

Also, I should mention that an earlier name for this feast day was Feast of the Invention of the True Cross (the name that is still used for this holy day, celebrated on May 7 in the Diocese of Jerusalem). "Why is it called the Feast of the Invention of the True Cross? Whether it's celebrating its finding or its exaltation, the Cross was already there... it wasn't invented. Was it?" No, it wasn't. The reason for that title for this feast day emanates from the use of the Latin word "inventio" in the original name of this feast. That Latin word was mistranslated as "Invention" — but in fact, it actually means "discovery" (or "finding"). Hence, the Feast of the Invention of the True Cross (May 7) really means the Feast of the Finding of the True Cross (May 3), which we observe as the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14). Confused? Me too. So, let's wrap up this column.

Whether at Holy Cross in Dover, Immaculate Conception in Marydel, or any parish in the Catholic Church, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a holy day worth reflecting on and remembering. As the famous hymn says: "Lift high the Cross, the love of Christ proclaim, till all the world adore his Sacred Name." Amen to that! Dominus vobiscum!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor