

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 24, 2023

25th 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

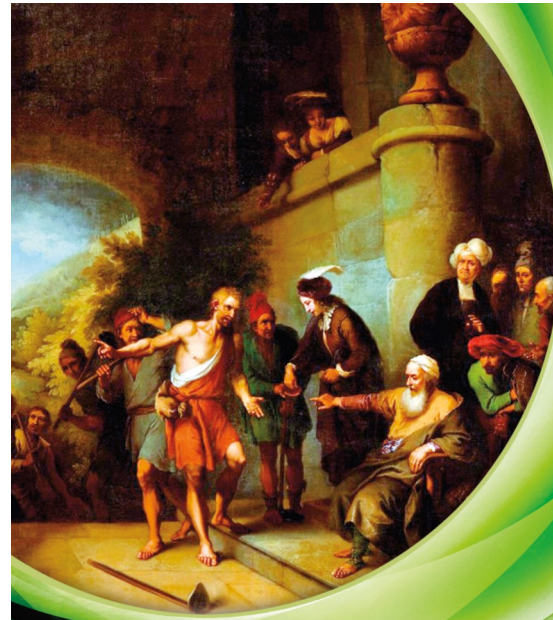
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Matthew 20:15-16

The Pharisees Question Jesus by James Tissot, between 1886 & 1894
© Decaan

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

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

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.

WE NEED YOU! TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

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 one 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 September 10, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$25,514	\$27,020	(\$1,506)
YTD	\$284,616	\$290,640	(\$6,024)
Needs	\$1,274	\$1,712	(\$438)

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC) Ending September 10, 2023

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$3,742
Second Collection	\$536

SHARE IN THE SPIRIT COLLECTION

Today's second collection is taken in support of the diocesan tuition assistance program. Monies raised through this collection coupled with the diocese's tuition assistance endowment provides financial assistance to hundreds of deserving families who seek a Catholic education for their children but who cannot afford the full cost of tuition. If you are not prepared to contribute today, you may drop your contribution off at the parish office or place it in next week's collection basket.

Dear Parishioners,

There are some months that have songs connected with them that inspire distinctly different feelings; September is one of those months. I was putting together an Apple Music playlist for songs about September, focusing on the happy side of September's newness and change of season. While doing that, I came across *Earth Wind and Fire's "September,"* which encourages us to *"party hard, [and be] dancing September."* I'll think about the first but probably resist the second.

On the Down Low. But, now, at age 61, as I move from middle age toward the golden years, it is the more downbeat, reflective songs of September that catch my ear, my heart, and my imagination. In these songs, September is seen as the start of the countdown to the end of the year, when days start getting shorter and evening falls so hard. Two of these songs, which never cease to give me pause to ponder about the passage of time and, indeed, life, are "September Song" (my favorite version is by Willie Nelson) and "The September of My Years" by Frank Sinatra.

Blue-Eyed Soul. September Song reminds us that *"it's a long, long while from May to December, but the days grow short when you reach September."* It notes that in terms of the year, *"the days dwindle down to a precious few,"* and so, these *"precious days I'll spend with you."* The metaphor of the passage of time simply drips all over this song. This is even more so the case with "September of My Years," in which Sinatra croons: *"One day you turn around, and it's summer / next day you turn around and it's fall / and the springs and the winters of a lifetime / whatever happened to them all?"*

Still Crazy After All These Years. A lament, to be sure, but this resounds these days as I move into AARP territory and start getting mail from Social Security telling me when I can start collecting (holy moley, Batman, when did I get this old). And yet, while I understand why some might lament, I can't bring myself to lament. For, even as the years pass, I find the wonderful mysteries of life combined with the assurance of the Catholic faith and the presence of Christ front and center, keep me feeling young, alive, and perhaps at times adventurous -- still wanting to *"party hard, [and be] dancing in September."* Similarly, in the final line of "September of my Years," the singer takes lament and turns it on its ear, saying, *"And I find that I'm smiling gently as I near September / the warm September of my years."*

Man with A Plan. So, one may ask, is Fr. Lentini going through a musical late-mid-life crisis? Not at all. I'm just putting a point of reference on the idea that as

time keeps on slippin' slippin' slippin' into the future, God still has plans for each of us. Our life with God, our Catholic faith, and our Lord's presence, front and center, reminds us that we always, always, always have more to do! Whether in the January, September, or December of our years, we are disciples and followers of Christ.

To this end, I want to talk about several holy people, some saints and some folks in the Bible, who served God until amazing oldness of age, each a centenarian, but each demonstrating youthfulness of heart. These are the folks that keep me young at heart.

Adam. According to the Book of Genesis, Adam -- as in Adam and Eve -- lived to be 930 years old. Now Adam must have had some great genes, for three of his descendants lived even longer: Jared (the father of the better-known Enoch) lived to be 962; Methuselah (who is Enoch's son, and a prime candidate for the Guinness Book of World Records) lived to be 969, and then there was poor Noah, the grandson of Methuselah, who was struck down in his prime at only 950.

Now, one might wonder how Adam makes this list. I mean, the story of him, Eve, the Apple, and the Serpent doesn't really end well and stuck mankind with a bad case of original sin. How does he warrant a place on a list of holy folks? Well, the tradition would imply that both Adam and Eve repented from their disobedience. How do I know this? It's not because I read the National Inquirer; it's because I checked the Roman Martyrology, which is the official Church listing of all saints. And in that Roman Martyrology, there is listed "Ss. Adam and Eve," whose feast day is, appropriately, December 24. So, yeah, Adam sinned; most of the great saints have done that, but like those many other great saints, he (and his wife Eve) repented. He remained a steadfast husband, and he and Eve spent the rest of their lives remaining faithful to God. He is a reminder that no matter how great the sin is, a sinner can always turn back to God.

You might be wondering, what about Eve? How long did she live? Well, the Bible is silent on her age. I guess even Scripture respects a woman's prerogative to hide her age.

St. Simon Stock. Simon Stock was born in England in 1165. At age 12, he began living as a her-

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

PRAY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Our parish will offer special prayers for local and state law enforcement officers and their families from 8:30 - 9:15am on Friday, September 29 immediately after the 8am daily Mass. This is the memorial of St Michael the Archangel, patron of police officers. All are welcome to join in these prayers.

ROSARY RALLY - OCTOBER 14

The 105th Anniversary of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun. Our Lady requested that the Rosary be prayed daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners. Unite with us to pray at our **Rosary Rally on October 14, immediately after the 8 am mass, starting at 9 am, at the front of the church by Our Lady of Mt Carmel statue.**

Bring your rosary, family, friends, and portable chairs or blankets to sit upon. Everybody come and pay honor to our Blessed Mother.

We will also be in the Gathering Space this weekend and the weekend of Sept 23/24 collecting names of those who will pledge to pray the Rosary daily on their own schedule. Any questions, please call Carol O'Donnell at 302-359-4340. If you need a rosary, we can provide you with one. When we pray, Our Lady prays with us!!

RECENTLY DECEASED OF HOLY CROSS

Our condolences to the families of those who recently passed:

- Jorge P. Caidedo

NEWLY BAPTIZED

- Dariana Alexa Tzunux Perez

NEW PARISHIONERS

- Eric Echeverri
- Alan Carlos and Sofia Cruz Lopez

27TH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (OCT 8)

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 5:1-7

The vineyard of the Lord is loved and tended by God.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4:6-9

The God of Peace will be with those who are virtuous and who fill their minds with all that is good and pure.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:33-43

In this parable, a landowner leases his vineyard to tenants, but when he sends his servants to collect the portion of the harvest owed to him, they are beaten and killed. When the landowner sends his son, he too is killed.

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.

CAN YOU HELP AT THE ICC 11 AM MASS?

Would anyone be interested in leading the 4 songs at the 11 AM Mass at Immaculate Conception on weeks the organist and cantor are out of town? It can be a cappella or bring a guitar, play on the keyboard. We would appreciate any help you can give. Call the ICC Parish Office if interested in helping us out.

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 HSA@holycrossdover.org.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Is the Holy Spirit calling your heart to get more involved in the protection of pre-born children? Now is a great time to get involved! 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil begins on Wed Sept 27th through Nov. 5th.

Contact Donna Latteri dlattereri86@gmail.com / 862-266-1099 for more information on various ways you can help.

RETRouvaille

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Ret-ro-vy). Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises.

Upcoming programs will be held October 6 - 8, 2023 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.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Learn tools to revitalize romance and deepen communication in your marriage!!! Get away for an intimate weekend – no group sharing required. The next weekend is November 3-5, 2023 at the Brighton Suites in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. For information or to register visit our website <http://www.wwme.org> or call Tony and Linda Massino at 302-648-2228.

MASS INTENTIONS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

25 MONDAY
HC 8:00 am Howard Rowland

26 TUESDAY
HC 8:00 am Frances Cassidy

27 WEDNESDAY
HC 8:15 am James Clacher

28 THURSDAY
HC 8:00 am Leonia Skpencer
ICC 6:00 pm For the People

29 FRIDAY
HC 8:00 am Sheila Beringer

30 SATURDAY
HC 8:00 am Dr. Gino Bottino (LI)
HC 5:00 pm Rita Robert

1 SUNDAY
HC 7:30 am Clara L. Combs
ICC 8:30 am Charles Young
HC 9:30 am Anthony and Helen Vinciguerra
ICC 11:00 am Rosa Cristiano
HC 11:30 am Alan Molina
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

*(LI—LIVING INTENTION
DM—DECEASED MEMBERS)*

*THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHAPEL FOR
SEPT 24-30 IS FOR MARIA LUISA HORRA-PERALES.*

*THE SANCTUARY LAMP IN THE CHURCH FOR
SEPT 24-30 IS FOR KENNETYH.H. SMITH*

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

Join Bishop Koenig for the Diocese of Wilmington Marian Pilgrimage on Saturday, October 7, 2023 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Information can be found by visiting the cdow.org/MarianPilgrimage website or facebook.com/CDOWMarianPilgrimage.

Unfortunately, we do not have a bus available leaving from the parish. You must provide your own transportation.



SEPT 30/OCT 1, 2023

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Bieker M. Miller A. Torbert
C. Bugglin P. Sheldon B. Torbert
C. Torbert

LECTORS

D. Kilby
H. Walker

7:30 AM A. Fischer R. Fritzsche E. Bydlon
J. Fischer W. Thomas B. Gyamfi
E. Gyamfi

LECTORS

C. Cuffee

9:30 AM G. Richards B. Whitworth J. Beugre
C. Robinson R. Willey C. Beugre
E. Ksenich

LECTORS

S. Crossen
J. Coffield

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

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

E. Costello

8:30 AM

LECTORS

G. Godfrey

F. Cristiano

11:00 AM

LECTORS

D. King

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

CAR SHOW IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

5th Annual Car Show on October 14, 2023

Starting at 10 AM until 2 PM

\$10 Registration fee per car; Prizes will be awarded. There will be food available for purchase.

Music provided by "The Godfather of New England Doo Wop"

For additional information, call Woody Gravenor at 302-632-2208.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next Saturday, September 30th, we talk with Catholic Charities' Fritz Jones and Goodwill's Colleen Morrone and learn about the new collaboration between these two organizations. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640

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

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.

- AÑO DE AVIVAMIENTO PARROQUIAL: ¿Qué es El Avivamiento Nacional Eucarístico? El Avivamiento Eucarístico Nacional es un movimiento para restaurar la comprensión y la devoción a este gran misterio en los Estados Unidos, en la diócesis de Wilmington en las parroquias de la Santa Cruz y la Inmaculada Concepción en nuestras parroquias y escuelas, en nuestros hogares y en nuestros corazones y vidas, Jesús es el Pan de vida. El avivamiento es una iniciativa trascendental, de tres años de duración, que dará frutos en los años venideros. Durante el anterior Año de Avivamiento Diocesano, el clero y los líderes diocesanos construyeron los cimientos para que este movimiento prosperara a nivel parroquial. La segunda fase fomentará la devoción eucarística a nivel parroquial, fortaleciendo nuestra vida litúrgica a través de la celebración fiel de la misa, la adoración eucarística, las misiones, los recursos, la predicación y los movimientos orgánicos del Espíritu Santo. Nuestro mundo está sufriendo. Todos necesitamos sanación y ser reavivados, pero muchos de nosotros estamos separados de la fuente misma de nuestra fortaleza. Jesucristo nos invita a volver a la fuente y cumbre de nuestra fe: Su Presencia Real en la Eucaristía. Por esta razón se les invita a todos al Foro Cristiano con el padre Brennan Ferris: Todos los viernes, de 6:00PM hasta las 8:00PM. El tema es : El Misterio Eucarístico” donde todo el año las clases se centrara en torno a la EUCARISTIA y la PRESENCIA REAL en la Eucaristía
- 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.

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 Pop-piti @ dre@iccmartydel.org o 410-482-8939.
- Reunión para los que van a recibir los Sacramentos de Reconciliación/Primera Comunión será el martes 19 de septiembre en el salón a las 7:00 PM o el domingo 24, 2023 a las 2:30 en el salón.
- Para la Confirmación: Martes 26 de septiembre a las 7:00 PM en el salón o el Domingo 1 de octubre a las 2:30 en la Oficina.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Please go to the following link to register for religious education classes. <https://holycrossover.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@holycrossover.org

Class on September 24 at 3:00 pm and again in October 8.

LAFF (LIVING AS A FAMILY OF FAITH CATECHESIS)

Next LAFF class is September 24 and then October 8 at 10:30 am..

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@holycrossover.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 Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossover.org or call (302) 674-5787.

HOLY IS HIS NAME—CLASS FOR ADULTS

The class on Scott Hahn's Holy Is His Name will continue Monday, 9/25/23 in St. Luke's room in the ELC at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome. A summary of what has been done will be available. This is a good place to pick up - even for newcomers. For more information you can text or call Carol Bugglin at 302-423-6654. Hope to see you there!

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

Confirmation Preparation Classes:

Sunday, September 24 from 3-5 pm and Wednesday, September 27 from 6-7:30 pm

CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP INFORMATION MEETING (HC)

Monday, September 25 at 7 pm in the Luke room. Please come listen to our teens who have attended work camp describe week of service. Information on our planned trip will be available and any questions will be answered.

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.

Children must be registered in order to attend classes. Fees are now \$60 for 1 child, \$120 for 2 children, \$180 for 3 children and \$200 for more than 4 children.

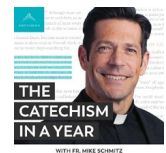
Volunteers needed for Confirmation Prep Team! If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, being a peer leader (Teen) for Religious Education or Confirmation Preparation team member, and an adult that is bi-lingual to assist with Confirmation once and month and on retreats, please contact Alicia Poppiti @ dre@iccmmarydel.org or 410-482-8939.

Sacramental meeting for: 1st Reconciliation/ Communion is today: Sun., Sept. 24, 2023 @2:30pm in hall

Confirmation: Tues. Sep. 26 @7pm Hall or Sun. Oct. 1, 2023 12 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>



They were a dynamic duo back in my day of music appreciation. I can only recall one song I wasn't terribly fond of. I enjoyed the music and talent of Simon and Garfunkel. The harmonious blend of their voices remains a source of listening pleasure even today. One of my favorite musical selections produced by Mr. Paul Simon and Mr. Art Garfunkel is titled My Little Town. I always liked the melody, and the lyrics brought to mind a place where it I was sure one of them of once called home. It's not an autobiographical piece. The lyrics do not paint a very favorable picture of small town living in America. Nonetheless, the song is a good one.

I live in a very small town. I've written about it before. This place has no traffic signals, no schools, no town law enforcement, no retail businesses, no real entertainment to speak of. There is a ball park at the edge of town, Friday night lights emblazon the field during the season, there is a soccer field, there are tennis courts, and old-time concession stand type structures that have been slightly modernized through the years. There are less than one thousand residents, and for the most part my little town is a very serene place to live. That which breaks the ordinary silence and calm of the town is the fire whistle, soon to be followed by the sound of the pick-up trucks responding in quick fashion to the call for help. I live within a stone's throw of the fire station. There is no place in my little town where the sound of the alarm can be escaped.

I recall the first time the alarm sounded just within a few days of our having taken up residency in this little town. My first thought was of my furry, four pawed friends. Much to my amazement, they remained completely composed. Like the new residents that we were, my husband and I peered through the window in anticipation, watching the slow vertical rise of the massive garage doors behind which would soon emerge three monstrous red and white fire trucks making a slow left turn, before stopping at the traffic sign. Then quickly making their way to the edge of town and their appointed destination. Someone needed help. Help was on the way. Much to my surprise, there were some of our neighbors who had exited their homes to wave in appreciation for the firemen who volunteer service to the town residents and to those in the surrounding area.

Men and women in small towns across America are trained fire fighters, paramedics, and rescue operators who volunteer their service for the benefit of their towns. They are committed to providing a speedy response as the sound of the siren proclaims the need for help. No matter the time of day. The first time I heard the term first-responder followed the events of September 11th, twenty-two years ago. The first-responders became overnight heroes, and rightfully so. The men and women who could never have anticipated a need for service in response to such a tragic, calamitous event gave all. The first on site, many of whom were denied return to their duty station.

Fast-forward, 18 years later when a global pandemic brought to the forefront another profession where dedicated men and women were recognized among the heroes known as first-responders. And rightfully so. Men and women who serve in the health care profession unselfishly place themselves at risk for the good of others. The pandemic years proved their dedication and loyalty to their profession.

It is a concern of mine, when planning for annual school events that repeat performances could possibly lead to a less than enthusiastic response, perhaps even apathy as the students recall the occasions from the previous years. One event that I always look forward to scheduling is our annual First Responder's Day. There is nothing old-hat about FRD.

It is our duty as educators to not only familiarize our students with the dedicated servants of public safety, but to cultivate a spirit of appreciation and knowledge of the sense of sacrifice in the name of community commitment. It is what we should do when we teach them the value of their service. We begin this cultivation process early on as we discuss together and invite into our classrooms representation from the community of civic helpers. Last year we hosted a healthy gathering of first-responders. Their heartfelt and age-appropriate presentations, their fancy vehicles and the demonstration of their equipment, the law-enforcement officers, highly-skilled with four furry paws, the revving of the motorcycle engines, the sounds of the sirens, the raising of the ladder on that monstrous ladder truck, the dramatic landing of the DSP helicopter on the back field, the sophisticated response vehicles specially designed and assigned to particularly precarious incidents, AND a fast-favorite last year, Roy, the support dog. It never gets old.

It was late morning when I was walking toward the ELC and spotted a small enthusiastic crowd gathered. It was junior high recess when a surprise guest made an appearance. Mrs. Peek called a few of the students over to meet our School Resource Officer, Terrence Knight. Soon there was a bit of a crowd gathered---no invitation needed. The students were so happy to have the chance to ask questions, and listen to the things he had to say about his role at Holy Cross. He was welcomed enthusiastically by the students. In turn, he came away wearing a smile bigger than Texas saying "I love this part of my job."

It is for that reason and many more that we will welcome our first-responder friends back to HCS and present them with a warm welcome and show of gratitude as we continue to teach our children the importance of the service performed by the selfless men and women, the first responders of our community.

mit in the hollow trunk ("stock" means trunk, hence St. Simon "Stock") of a large tree. If he were Swedish, I guess that would be his "Stock-home." (ouch) Anyway, in the early 13th century, he joined the newly formed Carmelite Order. At age 86, on July 26, 1251, the Blessed Mother appeared to Simon holding the Brown Scapular, telling him that it is "...a shield in time of danger and a pledge of special peace and protection." The scapular, a devotional cloth worn over the shoulders, was Promoted by St. Simon Stock and became an object of devotion to his order -- and is today worn by Catholics worldwide. His feast day is May 16. St. Simon Stock died in the year 1265 at the age of 100, well after the September of his years, heck, even after the October or November of his years!

Abraham. Abraham did not have the longevity of Adam or Noah, only living to the meager age of 175 (Genesis 25:7), but much of what Abraham accomplished, he accomplished in September of his years, in his old age. For a good part of his life, Abraham worshipped false gods (Joshua 24:2) and idols. But, while in Mesopotamia, he heard the voice of God and followed Him faithfully. Abraham was said to be 100 years old when he and Sarah gave birth to Isaac. Then, God asked Abraham to offer up Isaac on a fiery pyre in a famous Biblical moment. Abraham followed God's command, but then God relented after Abraham showed his fealty to God's commands. This moment from Genesis 22 reminds us that while God didn't require Abraham to offer his own son, God himself would see his Son be offered up on the altar of the Cross, "for us men and for our salvation," as the Creed says. The point is Abraham went from being one who didn't even acknowledge God (a pagan) to becoming one of His most devoted followers. According to the Roman Martyrology, Abraham's feast day (under the title of Abraham the Patriarch) is observed on Oct. 9.

Sarah. Remember the TV show "The Golden Girls?" It was about four women, three widowed and one divorced, sharing a house. The show focused on how these women -- all in their senior years -- were still able to do some amazing things and were vital even in their later years. Sarah (originally, Sarai) was perhaps the first "The Golden Girl." Sarah was the wife of Abraham; she was the first female convert to Judaism. Abraham and Sarah had no children, as Sarah was considered barren, which was seen as a curse.

In Genesis 17:1-14 God establishes the Covenant of Circumcision with Abraham. With the covenant established, God changes the name of Sarai to Sarah (who is 90 years old at this point), and the first blessing of the Covenant is decreed by God: *"I will bless her, and I will give you a son by her. Her also will I bless; she will give rise to nations, and rulers of peoples will issue from her."* Scripture says that Abraham responded by laughing at God and saying, *"Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah give birth at ninety?"* Likewise, Sarah laughed at the idea, too. But in Genesis 18:13-15, *"The LORD said to Abraham: 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really bear a child, old as I am?' Is anything too marvelous for the LORD to do? At the appointed time, about this time next year, I will return to you, and Sarah will have a son.' Sarah lied, saying, 'I did not laugh,' because she was afraid. But he said, 'Yes, you did.'"*

In any event, God had the last laugh, and thus Isaac was born to 90-year-old Sarah and 100-year-old Abraham. In Jewish tradition, it said that Sarah was made youthful in health again at this time so that she could raise Isaac. Of course, if this happened today, it would no doubt yield a reality TV show. But this was indeed a blessed event. And I think this is worth a mention in a column about Holy folks who did amazing things later in life. FYI - Sarah lived to be 127. According to the Roman Martyrology, Sarah's feast day (under the title of Sarah the Matriarch) is observed on August 19.

Well, space is running out, and so, much like the old movie serials, this will be continued next week. In the next column, I will continue to write the various men and women who served God at an advanced age in the September of their years.

With that, I will leave you with a quote about the years of old age from one who lived until he was 106, St. Patrick. He said, *"I only seek in my old age to perfect that which I had not before thoroughly learned in my youth, because my sins were a hindrance to me."* Or, more simply put, if you are faithful, you are not getting old; you're getting better. Next column: St. Patrick, Joshua, St. Simeon, St. Anna, St. Raymond of Penyafort, and St. John the Apostle.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor