



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

May 12, 2024

Ascension of the Lord

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

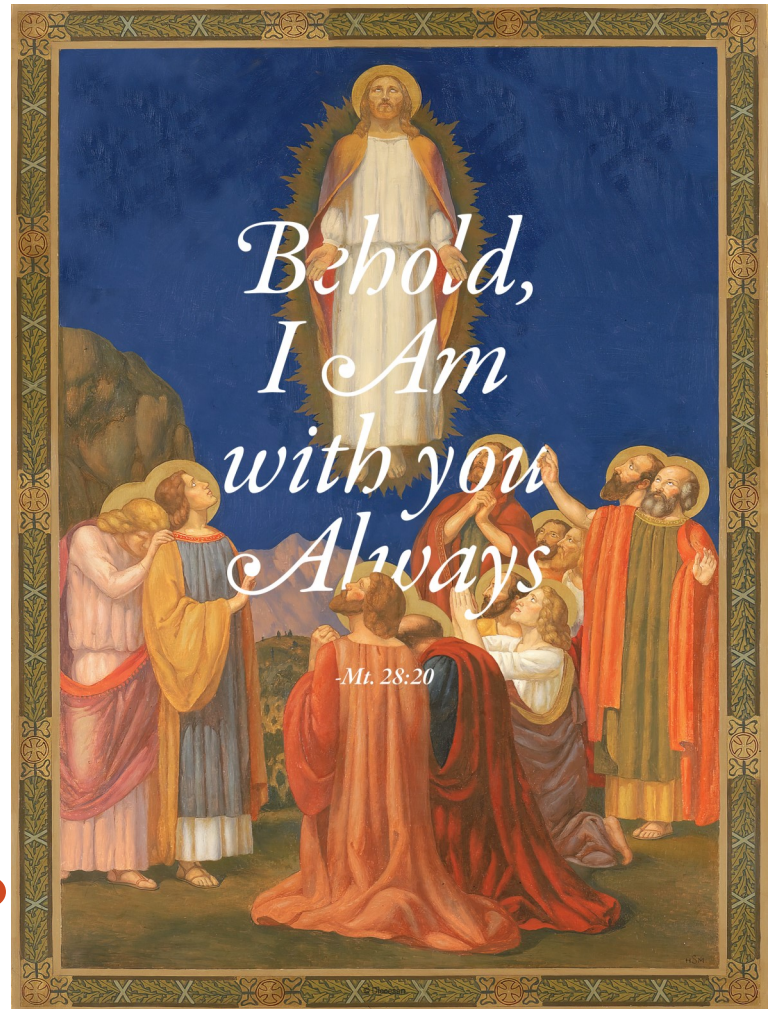
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 8 am
Wednesday – 8:15 am
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



-Mt. 28:20

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.

ONE BODY ONE SPIRIT IN CHRIST ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who pledged to the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. Your participation strengthens our community. If you have not yet participated, please consider doing so today. Your gift makes a real difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families who reside within our 12-county diocese. Pledge envelopes are available in the Gathering Space and can be placed in the offertory basket. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Diocesan Website

To learn more about the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal, parishioners are encouraged to visit the diocesan website at www.cdown.org. Simply select Giving - Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal. QR codes will be provided.

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HB 140— Assisted Suicide Bill

Physician assisted suicide legalizes and normalizes the taking of a human life. There are enough tragic suicides in our community already. What message are we giving our young people when the state sanctions suicide? We need to help and support the physically and mentally ill in our community, not assist them in taking their own lives. Ask your Delaware State Senator to not support HB 140. For more information, and to send an email to your Senator, visit cdow.org/StopAssistedSuicide.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending April 28, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$26,069	\$26,915	(\$846)
YTD	\$1,179,307	\$1,184,540	(\$5,233)
Needs	\$2,054	\$1,712	\$342

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending April 28, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,522
2nd Collection	\$459

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 find myself in times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me, speaking words of wisdom; let it be. And in my hour of darkness, she is standing right in front of me, speaking words of wisdom; let it be.” In 1970, the Beatles wowed the world with these lyrics from their penultimate number one song, “Let It Be.” I must confess, being raised in a Catholic universe (home, school, parish), I had always just assumed that in this song, Beatle member Paul McCartney was singing about Mary, our Blessed Mother. I mean, it really does fit the Catholic spiritual outlook toward Mary in our prayer life.

Mother Mary But, some years later I was disquieted when, like tasting oregano in one’s ice-cream, I was jolted into new reality as I found out that the lyrics of “Let It Be” had nothing to do with our “Mother Mary.” As it turned out, it was songwriter Paul McCartney’s mother Mary (who had died of cancer when he was fourteen) that was the inspiration for the “Mother Mary” in the song. That being said, to this day, anytime I hear “Let It Be,” – however it was inspired – I think of our Blessed Mother Mary, and how much the words of that song speak about her, intentionally or not.

That’s My Mama! On this Mother’s Day weekend, we have a wonderful opportunity to pause in prayer and thank the Lord Jesus Christ for the gift of our Blessed Mother, who is our mother and the model of the Church, and is also the first and best disciple of Christ. In John’s Gospel, Jesus, from the Cross, entrusts his Apostles, the foundation stones of his young Church, to his Mother Mary: “Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.” (John 19:25-27)

Pray Tell. From that day to this very day, Mary remains the Mother of Christ, our brother, which makes her our mother. And so, for us, when we find ourselves “in times of trouble” let us ask Mary that which we so often ask of our Christian brothers and sisters: to pray for us. And when we do that, and seek God’s aid through prayer, we can say, as the song said, “In my hour of darkness, she is standing right in front me, speaking words of wisdom, let it be.” And be rest assured, in our hour of darkness,

Mary will be there with us, as the first and best disciple of Christ – doing what disciples of Christ do: praying for those in need, serving God and neighbor.

Other Mothers. While, in our faith, we focus very rightly and strongly on Mary and her motherhood, it is worth noting that there are many other mothers in the Sacred Scriptures that we should also reflect upon. Now, if I asked you to name a mother from the Bible, of course everyone would name Mary, Mother of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. But, can you name another? Well, let’s take this Pastor’s column to look at eight famous “other mothers” from the Bible. It’s time to step into the Wayback Machine and set the dial for “the beginning.”

1. Eve. Eve, the wife of Adam, was the mother of Cain, Abel, and Seth. Adam and Eve also “had other sons and daughters” (Genesis 5:3-4). Now, while no mom is perfect, Eve (along with Adam) set a really bad example for their kids: she disobeyed God, and, together with Adam, brought original sin to mankind. However, Eve did serve a role in God’s plan even after the fall of man: By populating the earth with her children, she faithfully obeyed God’s first command, “be fruitful and multiply.”

2. Hannah. Hannah prayed to God for a child saying, “O Lord of hosts, if you look with pity on the hardship of your servant, if you remember me and do not forget me, if you give your handmaid a male child, I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life.” And God did bless her with a boy child. And faithful Hannah kept her word and took Samuel to the temple and put him in the care of the priests. Hannah’s faithfulness spilled onto Samuel, and he went on to be a great prophet.

3. Rebekah. Rebekah was a mom with some great and not-so-great qualities. On the great side, she married and was faithful to Isaac, one of the great leaders of the Jewish people, and raised twin boys: Jacob and Esau. She was tenacious, and wanted what was best for her family. On the Dr. Phil side of the equation, she favored one son (Jacob) over the other (Esau); at one point even getting Jacob to trick Esau out of his birthright, which caused consternation between the brothers. This conflict raged for a generation; as Dr. Phil

(continued on page 10)

HC & ICC CLERGY

Vy. Rev. James S. Lentini , V. F.	Pastor
Rev. Brennan Ferris	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
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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

MAILING ADDRESS

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

8TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (PENTECOST)

FIRST READING: ACTS 2:1-11

Having received the Holy Spirit, the disciples spoke in the languages of all nations about the marvels of God.

SECOND READING: GALATIANS 5:16-25

When the Holy Spirit is a guide in the ways of goodness, no earthly power can pass judgements.

GOSPEL: JOHN 15:26-27, 16:12-15

Jesus describes the coming of the Holy Spirit as empowering followers in their witness.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered parishioners:



- Luis, Lizette, Daniel and Oscar Guzman
- Ryan and Cindy Dutton
- Caroline Ekwem

NEWLY BAPTIZED

Congratulations to our newest members who were recently baptized:

- Sophia Marie Lisinski
- Janelle Ryan Aida Bontrager
- Bryson Nkongmie Anu
- Derek Isaac Navarro
- Oscar Manuel Guzman

RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of :

- John Martin
- Kenneth Shouldis
- Cynthia Cain

May the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.



MOM AND BABY GROUP AT HC

Our Mom and Baby Group is intended for mothers with babies ages 0-2 years of age. Siblings are welcome to join! This group is for our mothers to connect with each other and our babies to enjoy themselves. We would love if you join us for prayer, discussion, and play time! If you have any small toys you would like to donate to the group, please contact Megan McCormac. 302 535 9913 or email megs.farl@gmail.com. Our meeting date will be **May 25, at 10 am** in the Early Learning Center building, second floor. Hope to see you there!

MEN OF MALVERN

THIS IS THE TIME OF FULFILLMENT

The Archbishop Fitzmaurice Group invites you to a traditional men's retreat on May 17-19, 2024. Our Retreat Director is Rev. Scott Reilly, Chaplain, Lumen Institute, Philadelphia. Also guest speaker Joe McIlvaine, former professional baseball player and MLB Executive. Bishop Koenig will lead Mass on Friday evening. Throughout the weekend, Marty Rotella will lead our Music Ministry. We invite the men of the parish, their sons, and friends to a weekend encounter with Jesus. You can register at <http://www.malvernretreat.com/events/mid-may-2024/>. For more information contact Deacon Bob McMullen at 302-697-9714 or deaconmcmullen@hotmail.com for Holy Cross men.

Contact Francesco Cristiano at 302-222-3422 or email joycenchris@comcaset.net for Immaculate Conception men.

RETROUVAILLE

The Retrouvaille Program helps couples struggling in their marriage to put the pieces of their marriage back together and rebuild loving relationships. It is a Christian program Catholic in origin, and couples of all faiths or no faith back-

MASS INTENTION MAY

13 MONDAY
HC 8:00 am Mother's Day Novena

14 TUESDAY
HC 8:00 am Mother's Day Novena

15 WEDNESDAY
HC 8:15 am Mother's Day Novena

16 THURSDAY
HC 8:00 am Mother's Day Novena
ICC 7:00 pm For the People

17 FRIDAY
HC 8:00 am Mother's Day Novena

18 SATURDAY
HC 8:00 am Mother's Day Novena
HC 5:00 pm Mary & William Kuehn

19 SUNDAY
HC 7:30 am Joan and Zadoc Pool
ICC 8:30 am Patricia Grygo
HC 9:30 am Ed Furjanic
ICC 11:00 am John Foley
HC 11:30 am Mother's Day Novena
ICC 1:00 pm For the People

The Sanctuary Lamp in the church is lit for Sue Gede from May 19-25.

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Adoration Chap is lit for Dorris Gills from May 19-25.

ground are encouraged to attend. It is primarily a practical program about improving communication, building a stronger marriage, and helping couples rediscover the love they had for each other.

There is help and there is hope for our marriage. For more information please call 1-800-470-2230.

RESPECT LIFE GROUP

Holy Cross Respect Life group is in need of volunteers, will you join us? It involves creating ways to promote a pro-life, pro-love message to the community around events and special days.

If you are creative and have a heart of love, please call me. Let's chat! Donna 862-266-1099 or email me dlatteri86@gmail.com

MAY 18/19, 2024

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM D Field P. Gerard C. Helwig D. MacLeish J. Novack J. Novack

LECTORS

L. Christiansen

7:30 AM S. Gede P. Jackson J. Salamone T. Svienty L. Boggs T. Catipay

LECTORS

K. Meire

9:30 AM K. Kelly B. Richards G. Richards C. Robinson K. Fernandez H. Louissaint G. Maddalena

LECTORS

S. Crossen C. Parks

11:30 AM T. Hernandez E. Pastoriza M. Richard

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

K. Cairns

TBF

11:00 AM

LECTORS

S. Tucker

1:00 PM

TBD

Have YOU ever thought of becoming a Lector, an Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion for Mass or to the homebound? We would love to have you join our other volunteers in these various ministries.

Please all Holy Cross Parish Office or Immaculate Conception Parish Office if you would like to sign up for any of these ministries. We certainly can use your help and would love to have you join your fellow parishioners in these areas. We pray you will consider God's calling for you to help out.

ADORATION CHAPEL

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



SUNDAY 7 am, 4 pm, 5pm

MONDAY 5 pm

WEDNESDAY 4 pm

FRIDAY 6 am

SATURDAY 5 am, 9 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 6 pm, 7 pm, 8 pm

SVDP MEETING AT ICC

St. Vincent de Paul meeting at Immaculate Conception will be held on May 13, 2024 at 5 pm in office conference room.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST

The Knights of Columbus will offer breakfast this weekend, May 12, after the 7:30 am and 9:30 am Masses. All moms will eat for free. It's a great way to start the day celebrating with your mom.

LADIES SODALITY

Our Sodality group are hosting a bake sale this weekend to raise funds to assist with their ministry.

SAVE THE DATE: EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, OCTOBER 5, 2024

Join us for the Diocese of Wilmington's Eucharistic Congress to be held on October 5, 2024, at the Ocean City Convention Center. This year's theme, "The Eucharist: The Source and Summit," invites us to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist in our lives.

The day will feature a keynote address by Bishop Richard Henning of the Diocese of Providence and will include faith-based vendors, a ministry fair, and breakout sessions tailored to various interests and age groups. There will also be opportunities for Adoration and Reconciliation.ark your calendars for this spiritually enriching event! More details will follow. We look forward to seeing you there!

- El papa Francisco ha hecho la invitación a la iglesia universal a que este año sea un año intenso de oración en preparación para celebrar el primer Jubileo Ordinario del nuevo milenio, bajo el lema “Peregrinos de la Esperanza”. Tiempo de preparación que precede el Jubileo y siguiendo este llamado del papa Francisco .El Foro Cristiano en todo el mes de Mayo pondrá en marcha” Viernes de Oración Comunitaria con María”. Que es nuestro modelo de Fe y maestra de la oración. Venga y acompañenos en este mes mariano de oración intensa junto a nuestra Madre María. todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche.
- Mayo es el mes de nuestra santísima Madre María y también es el mes de las flores, de la primavera. También, Mayo es el mes en el que todos recuerdan a su mamá el famoso 12 de Mayo y las flores son el regalo más frecuente de los hijos para agasajar a quien les dio la vida.
- Mayo mes de La Virgen Peregrina: Si desea que la imagen de la virgen María visite su casa para rezar el santo Rosario todos los días por una semana; por favor de anotarse con la hermana Marta Espinosa. Se le entrega la virgen el primer domingo de mayo y la regresa el domingo siguiente y otra familia la recoge. Se hará esto de mayo a noviembre.
- Retiro de Sanación: Conquistando Las Naciones Para Cristo tendrá su retiro de sanación 7,8,9 de junio, 2024 en Holy Cross. 631 South State St. Dover, DE 19901 Para Hombres y mujeres mayores de 18 años. Costo: \$125.00 por persona.
- Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa están abiertas, las aplicaciones están en línea o vaya a la oficina de Educación Religiosa.



ICC

Clases de Preparación Sacramental:

Primera Comunión: Felicitaciones a nuestros 14 jóvenes que recibieron a Cristo en la Eucaristía por primera vez el fin de semana pasado.

Próximo Año. Las inscripciones para el próximo año escolar 2024-2025 están abiertas, Inscripciones estarán abiertas hasta el 30 de agosto. Puede tomar una aplicación en el salón o en puede bajar la en línea. www.iccmarydel.org o visite la oficina parroquial. Se necesitan Catequistas y voluntarios. Si usted desea ser catequista o ayudar hable con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti

Escuela Bíblica de Verano en la Inmaculada Concepción: Invita a los niños a bucear EBV: Bucear en la amistad con Dios. Un evento de verano para niños llamado Scuba VBS se llevará a cabo en la Inmaculada Concepción del lunes 5 de agosto al viernes 9 de agosto de 6 a 8:30 p. m. ¡En Scuba, los niños exploran lo que significa tener una amistad con Dios! Los niños participan en actividades memorables de aprendizaje bíblico, aprenderán canciones pegadizas, juegan juegos para trabajar en equipo, devoran deliciosas golosinas, experimentan aventuras bíblicas únicas, harán nuevos amigos de la memoria bíblica para recordarles el amor de Dios y pondrán a prueba la ciencia. Experimentos divertidos que hacen volar la imaginación. Además, los niños aprenderán a buscar evidencia de Dios a su alrededor a través de algo llamado God Sightings. Cada día concluye con un Fin-tastic Finale que involucra a todos a vivir lo que han aprendido. ¡Se necesitan voluntarios y jóvenes mayores de 14 años para ayudar a que esta sea una gran semana para todos! Comuníquese con Alicia Poppiti si tiene preguntas. 410-482-8939 o dre@iccmarydel.org La inscripción ya está abierta y se cerrará el 20 de julio.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Vacation Bible School at Holy Cross: July 8th-12th, 9:00AM-12:00PM

Both the PK4-Grade 4 and the Grade 6th and 7th Program (Saint's in Training) will be participating in a program that will creatively

help the children and leaders alike to explore, learn and grow in their Catholic Faith!

The Goal of this program is to help the children better understand the Catholic Mass and deepen their love for Jesus in the Eucharist!

Everyday they will make new discoveries about their faith using games, music, crafts, faith and snacks.

Due to increased expenses in running this program we will be charging a \$25 fee per child. If a financial hardship exists, please contact Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org to discuss options.

Adult and teenage volunteers (grade 7 and up) needed! Please consider volunteering!



COMING THE 24-25 ADULT EDUCATION STUDY GROUP YEAR!

Stay tuned for these exciting programs!

The Summit of Faith

“The Eucharist distinguishes Catholic life more than anything else, providing the foundation for sacred worship and belief in Christ’s living presence within the Church. program will outline the teaching of the Catholic Church on the Eucharist and the Mass and how they lead into a robust expression of the Christian life in the world.”

Divine Mercy – The Second Greatest Story Ever Told

“With his characteristic skill and lucid style, Fr. Michael Gaitley interweaves the dramatic history of Poland, the transformative message of St. Faustina, the miraculous appearance of Mary at Fatima, the witness of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and the world-changing papacy of Pope Saint John Paul II into a tapestry of wonder and beauty.”

Wild Goose Series

“Unleash the Holy Spirit in Your Life In this professionally filmed and cinematographically stunning series, Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR will lead you on an unforgettable journey around the world and into the very heart of God. Discover the immense power and beauty of the unconditional love of God that is the Holy Spirit.”

Classes will begin again in September of 2024.

YOUTH PROGRAMS AT HOLY CROSS

The Youth Group will meet on May 13, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm on the second floor of the Early Learning Center. All high school youth are welcome to attend. It’s a fun evening of sharing, prayers, games, food, and a great time to be together.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION:

SRE Classes begin again in September. Be sure to register now.

Next Year: Registration for Religious Education 2024-2025 school year is open. Registrations will be taken from March 1st to August 30th. Catechists are always needed and helpers always welcome!!

Vacation Bible School at Immaculate Conception: Invites Children to Scuba VBS: Diving into friendship with God,

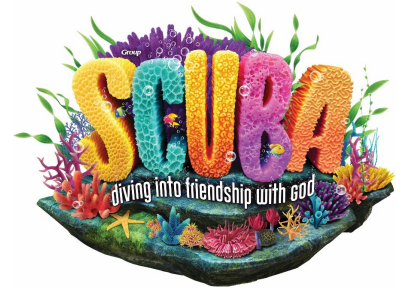
A summer kids’ event called Scuba VBS will be hosted at Immaculate

Conception from Monday, August

5th to Friday, Au-

gust 9th 6-8:30pm. At Scuba, kids explore what it means to have a friendship with God! Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy treats, experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures, collect Bible Memory Buddies to remind them of God’s love, and test out sciency-fun experiments that get imagination bubbling. Plus, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Fin-tastic Finale that gets everyone involved in living what they’ve learned.

Volunteers and youth over 14 needed to help make this a great week for all! Contact Alicia Poppiti for questions. 410-482-8939 or dre@icmarydel.org Registration is now open and will close July 20th.



Now here's a word not heard very often: munificence. It seems to be a term that has gone by the wayside in usage, or in daily conversation. It is a term having its origin rooted in the seventeenth century. Munificence... today most opt for the more frequently used synonym; generosity.

I was present last Sunday following the 9:30 Mass to support the parents and students who will be going off to Iowa for Odyssey of the Mind World Competition later this month. Father Lentini supported the idea of selling tickets following Masses for the Spaghetti Dinner held the following evening. As I approached the ticket table before the Mass the students informed me that the 7:30 Mass attendees had made contributions in excess of \$400.00! That's a lot of spaghetti! I was quickly told that very few tickets were actually sold; but it was donations made by our parishioners that provided us with the \$400.00 launch into the day's efforts. It was on the foot-heels of the 9:30 Mass that an additional sum exceeding \$500.00 was accumulated in our humble donation can. As we stood around the table, as Ephraim and Aidric held up their sign touting the Monday evening Spaghetti Dinner, parishioners for the 11:30 Mass were arriving. There were fifty-dollar bills being slipped through the slot of the plastic covering of our humble looking donation can, while lo and behold, but next did I spy a \$100 bill being casually slipped in by a munificent passerby. Mrs. Riecks was present for the Masses held at Immaculate Conception in Marydel where OM parents and students were replicating the Holy Cross endeavors. We are grateful to the parishioners of Immaculate Conception for their munificent support of our students. INSERT TOTALS HERE. Much obliged are we to the Knights of Columbus who have once again come to our aid and assistance. The Knights have always been a staunch supporter of our school. For the Spaghetti Dinner night, they do all the cooking and donate all the food, while the teams reap all the profits. God is so good, all of the time.

One of my guilty pleasures is one of those warm soft pretzels. I recall the days of old when our Student Council sold them every week. They were pretty popular hot sellers for a long time. Delivered to the classrooms just before snack time, everyone looked forward to them. And then the place went out of business. Everyone thought it was going to be a great little fundraiser for the OM kids to resurrect the idea, with the biggest problem being.....the place is in Bear. Oh well. But, with Plan A for pick-up not working out, we thank goodness for Plan B and Mrs. Riecks who made the trip north to pick up \$337.00 worth of pretzels. With each dollar hard worked for, with each of the several \$500.00 donations from local concerns, with each check that arrived in the mail earmarked for OM Mrs. Riecks was gaining confidence of their ability to raise the necessary funds to get our two teams to a land 971 miles away by flight, and 1099 miles away by car. (Yes, some of our parents opted to drive.)

I'm not trying to say that Holy Cross is all about fund-raising but, here lately we certainly have raised our fair share and then some. Excitement and spirit filled the air this past Friday when we held our second Walk-A-Thon in two years! Following a pep-rally in the gym where everybody got in the Crusader Proud spirit the eighth graders were the first to step foot through the inflatable arch marking the starting line. The designated route had been artistically created by our talented National Junior Art Honor Society members who braved the heat the day before illustrating the sidewalks with encouraging words and fun, colorful pictures. Even our little three-year-olds (although most will tell me that they are now 4!!) joined in the fun bringing up the rear. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" was my favorite themed poster carried by the sixth graders during the walk.

Several laps later, everyone still had enough energy to enjoy the school wide dance party on the parking lot. Everyone enjoyed their free pizza lunch followed up by a shirt signing session. The UD mascot popped out of the gym doors and was immediately surrounded by his fans. Everyone had a great time frolicking about with YoUDEe, the biggest and friendliest blue hen on the planet. Our thanks to Mr. Vescovi for his help in organizing YoUDEe's visit to HC.

Our sincere and deepest gratitude goes out to our HSA who spearheaded the whole effort. There is an inexhaustible amount of energy in Mrs. Gambone who was ably assisted by Mrs. Thomas as the number of days diminished and the starting gate countdown would be upon us. Trek-4-Tech was the theme for this year's walk, very cleverly conceived of by Mrs. Gambone as all monies raised in pledges and donations are earmarked for an upgrade in technology in the 24-25 school year

It is an amazing fact. When a call goes out for raising funds, the HCS community responds with a resounding 'how much?'" The response to the OM event was unbelievable. The goodness of parents and parishioners in humbling. Trek 4 Tech? Sure! How much do you need?? On Friday morning an additional \$3000.00 was donated by parents who showed up to join in the fun and watch their children joyfully trek for tech. Munificence. One of our very kind and devoted families literally handed over a check for more than \$12,000 as she (anonymously) matched the amount pledged by student's families. Munificence. It was at the end of the day when all had been said and done, or at least I thought so when Mrs. Gambone caught up with me to give me an initial grand total for the event. Showing me the screen on her cell phone.....\$49,491.00. Absolute MUNIFICENCE.

We offer our humble thanksgiving.

might ask, "So, Rebekah, how's that favoritism thing working for you?" Eventually, Esau made peace with Jacob (who became known as Israel), and at her death, Rebekah was buried in the family tomb.

4. Jochebed. Jochebed was the mother of Moses, and she was a brave woman! The Pharaoh of Egypt gave the command that all male children born to the Hebrew women living in Egypt, be killed. Ignoring the Pharaoh, a man named Amram, and his wife Jochebed, had a child whom they named Moses. When she couldn't protect Moses any longer, she put him in a Papyrus basket and left him in the reeds where he would be found. And he was... by the Pharaoh's daughter. And the rest is history! Jochebed had two other children: Aaron and Miriam, who also played an important role in the history of the Jewish people and in salvation history. While the story of Jochebed is told in the book of Exodus (Chapters 1-2), she is not named in that book. The first time the Mother of Moses has her name made known is in the Book of Numbers, 26:59.

5. The Mother of Samson. Remember Samson? He was the guy who had the first bad hair day in Scripture (when Delilah buzzed him like a customer in Supercuts and removed his power). Samson, of course had a mother, though she is not mentioned by name some ascribe her being Hazzelepni (1 Chronicles 4:3). In any event, Mama Samson was unable to bear a son, until an angel of the Lord brought her news to the contrary in Judges 13:3, "An angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her: Though you are barren and have had no children, you will conceive and bear a son." The angel noted several conditions that were to be observed regarding Samson: he was not to drink wine or beer, he was to observe Jewish dietary laws, and he was not to have his hair cut. His faithful mom observed these decrees, and her son grew up (probably looking like Cousin Itt from the Addams Family) to be a mighty figure in Israel. The Lord used the mighty Samson to protect the Chosen People from the wretched Philistines (at least until the Delilah-scissorhands incident). What Samson's mom knew (and worked to pass on to her son) was that heeding God's call and commands, and doing his will, is always the best path.

6. Deborah. This great mother from the Holy Scriptures wore many hats. Deborah was a prophetess, a judge and a mother. She prophesied and led a nation into a battle which resulted in a 40-year peace. On the dark-side, she also kills – in a brutal manner – one of the opponents of Israel while he slept. In the Biblical text from Judges called "The Song of Deborah" she identified as the "mother of Israel." I am quite sure Rebekah would disagree.

7. Elizabeth. Okay, now we jump into the New Testament. Mary's cousin Elizabeth, you may recall, was expecting a child when Mary made her famous "Visitation" (which we celebrate on May 31). The child that Elizabeth would bear was John the Baptist, the final and greatest prophet. He would be the one who would prepare the way of the Lord, and make his presence known. Elizabeth was old, and past her child bearing years, but like so many of the women of the Bible, turned in prayer to God and was blessed with a child. Of note, it was angelically revealed that the child was to be named "John" – but since Elizabeth's husband, Zechariah, had expressed doubt on this whole matter, he was struck mute. When he finally conceded to naming the child "John" (and not Zecchy, Jr., I guess), his voice was returned because of his faithfulness. St. Elizabeth (for whom our Diocesan parish in Wilmington is named) was a mother of great faith!

8. Sarah. The wife of Abraham was Sarah. It was said that she was in her 90s when she found herself with child. Now if this had happened in the late 1990s, the National Enquirer might still be in business. Sarah had prayed for a child, but with her and Abraham being so old, the very thought was laughable. Ultimately, she gave birth to Isaac, whose name means "he laughed." Sarah's faith was great. So much so, that in Hebrews (11:11) she is included in the litany of the faithful people of the Old Testament that are recounted.

And so, on this Mother's Day we remember our mothers, and we pray for them. In a special way, we also pray to our Blessed Mother Mary, who beyond all of these mothers of scripture was the model of Motherhood to whom all mothers, past, present and future should look. Mary, our mother, gave all of us and our mothers, the best maternal advice ever: she told us to look to Jesus and to "do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Happy Mother's Day!

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor