

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 5, 2024

6th Sunday of Easter

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

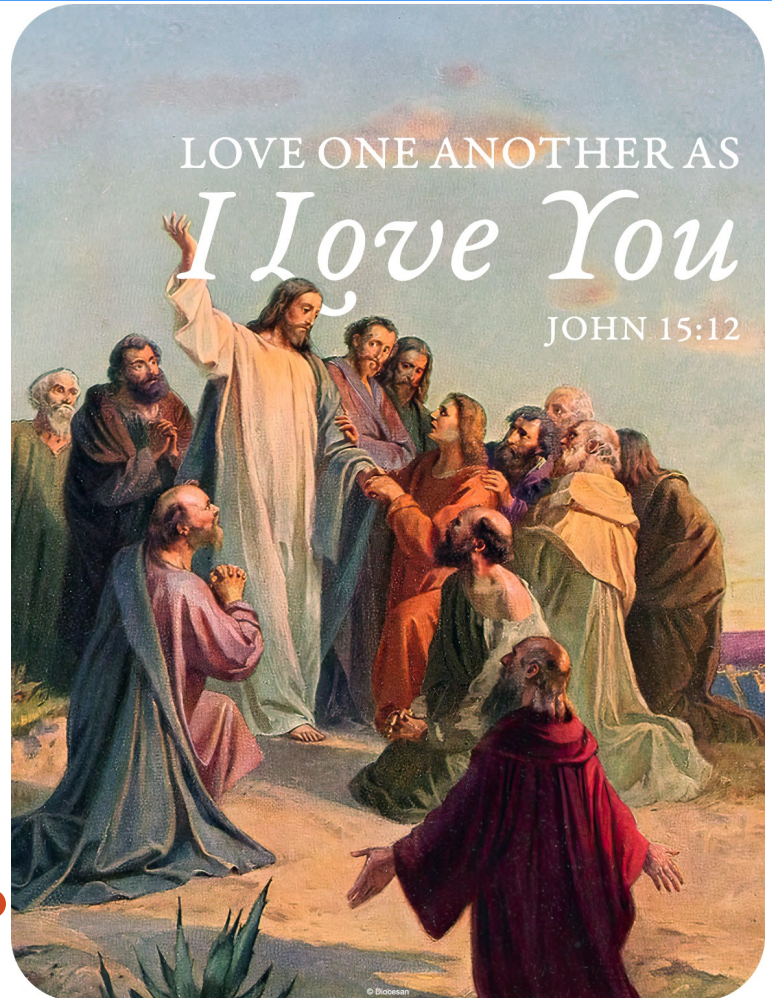
Federal Holidays, 9 am only (Presidents Day, MLK Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day)

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

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

ADORATION CHAPEL HOURS

Daily, 5 am – 9 pm



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

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.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending April 21, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$24,084	\$26,915	(\$2,831)
YTD	\$1,153,238	\$1,157,625	(\$4,387)
Needs	\$2,332	\$1,712	\$620

WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending April 21, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,047
2nd Collection	\$874

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 Parishioner,

I remember years ago, my eighth grade teacher reading a short story for us (or at least a portion of it), entitled "Mama's Bank Account." That story was regularly presented to school students from the 1950s -1980s. Written by Kathryn Forbes, it told the story of an immigrant Norwegian family living in turn-of-the-20th century San Francisco. The story exuded what might be called "old world charm." In the 1940s, that short story got adapted as a play and then made into a successful movie called "I Remember Mama." This was then adapted into a long-running TV series called "Mama," which – here's some useless trivia – was broadcast live from a studio above Grand Central Stations from 1949-1957.

The point of the book, the play, the movie and the TV series was singular: a child in the family, speaking in the first person, recounted stories – of all sorts – about her mother and her mother's importance to the family. The "Mama" in this show, Mama Hansen, could at times be quirky, old school (or "old country"), wise, eccentric, and secretly, unbeknownst to Papa, head of the household. The stories recounted about "Mama" ranged from funny to endearing, but unforgettable; hence that original title, "I Remember Mama."

We Remember Mama. In our Catholic faith, we remember Mama, too. We recall, our Blessed Mother Mary, in Scripture and Tradition, with great devotion. The Catholic Church calls us to remember our Blessed Mother with such great devotion, that it sets aside special times for us to do so: every Saturday is a day dedicated to Mary, October we focus on the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary and most especially, it is the month of May that is dedicated to honoring our Blessed Mother, and may rightly be called "the Month of Mary."

Ben Venna Mayo. Why is Mary so connected to the month of May in our Church's tradition? Let's step into the Wayback Machine and set the dial for the first century. In the first century, Roman and Greek tradition held May as the time of a rebirth of creation – new life springing forth. Moving forward, there developed a medieval tradition of May being the time of winter's expulsion from the world. Our understanding of Mary as bringing our savior into the world and being identified as the "gate of dawn" (bringing a new day into the world), tied in perfectly with these understandings of May. In a more direct way, honoring Mary in May emanated

from 13th century Spain. King Alphonsus X (of Castille), who had a great devotion to Mary, wrote canticles about her connecting her to May (notably, "*Ben venna Mayo*" – "Come goodness of May"). This connection to May, building on earlier traditions, spread quickly, and Marian holy days and practices in May grew, and devotions to Mary bloomed. Just as spring makes the earth more beautiful, Mary, the fairest of creation, helped make our world more beautiful by her openness to God's will.

May, Oui! And so, here in the midst of the merry, merry month of May, let me suggest a prayerful way in which we can honor our Blessed Mother in a special way this year. This May, let's learn about Mary through different feast days that honor her. In May, there are 31 feast days or events that honor Mary (or that are connected to Mary) throughout the world. I would commend you to spend a little time reading or "Googling" about these Marian holy days. Or, perhaps, more simply, when you pray in May, make a prayer to Mary under the title related to her on that day. For example, one might pray to Mary under the title of "Our Lady of Tears" on May 17, "Our Lady of Consolation" on May 25, or the perplexing "Our Lady of Sweat" on May 21.

Link to Mary. If you would like to see some devotional reflections on our Blessed Mother, Mary – one for each title of Mary in the month of May – just go to our Immaculate Conception Parish's website at www.iccmmarydel.org/marymay.

Mary's Titles and the Big Four. In Football, there is a collegiate athletic conference called the Big 10 which amazingly has 14 teams. In this month of May – the Month of Mary – I want to just write a little about the most significant titles of Mary which I will call "The Big Four" – and in keeping with the football tradition of the Big 10 having 14 teams, my Big Four titles for Mary will include five titles. To wit:

Mother of God. This is the Queen Mother of all titles for our Queen and Blessed Mother. The title "Mother of God" is especially significant as it says much more about Jesus than it does about Mary. This title identifies that the child born to Mary was

(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
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MAILING ADDRESS

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

7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (MAY 12)

FIRST READING: ACTS 1:15-17. 20-26

It took a throw of the dice to make Matthias a witness to the resurrection following Judas' betrayal of Jesus.

SECOND READING: 1JOHN 4:11-16

God is love and whoever loves lives in God and God lives in them.

GOSPEL: JOHN 17:11-19

As the Father sent Jesus into the world, so does he send his disciples out into the world as witnesses to truth.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to our newly registered parishioners:

- Christopher, Christina, Seamus and Jack Gallagher



If you are new to Holy Cross, or have been attending and have not registered, we welcome you to fill out a Parish Registration Form. They are located in the Pamphlet Rack located on the wall in the Gathering Space.

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 next 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 will offer a bake sale next weekend to raise funds to assist with their ministry. Stop by their table to enjoy in their delicious goodies!

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 MacCormac. 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 INTENTIONS APRIL/MAY

6 MONDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Nicole Trinkle
7 TUESDAY	
HC 8:00 am	DM Zullo Family
8 WEDNESDAY	
HC 8:15 am	DM Mahar Family
9 THURSDAY	
HC 8:00 am	
ICC 7:00 pm	For the People
10 FRIDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Msgr. Daniel McGlynn
11 SATURDAY	
HC 8:00 am	Leonora Figueroa
HC 5:00 pm	Gregory & Brian Shouldis & Debra Shouldis Petrovich
12 SUNDAY	
HC 7:30 am	Carmen Campanicki
ICC 8:30 am	John Foley
HC 9:30 am	Catherine & Frank Lutz
ICC 11:00 am	Crumlish & Brady Families
HC 11:30 am	Mother's Day Novena
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

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 dlatter86@gmail.com

MAY 11/12, 2024

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM

D. Darling
L. Darling

F. Ernst
S. Garber

J. Cutrona
S. Murawski

LECTORS

D. Kilby

7:30 AM

C. Brown
J. Chandler

J. Denney
R. Oneill

B. Richardson
L. Richardson

LECTORS

J. Davis

9:30 AM

D. Banach
S. Cordie

F. Hanlin
D. McGinnis

W. Shuron
A. Wilk
C. Wilk

LECTORS

M. Shrock
M. Sossich

11:30 AM

C. Garcia
B. Guzman

A. Luna

TBD

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

D. Smith

TBF

11:00 AM

LECTORS

D. King

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

RELIGIOUS ED: FIRST COMMUNIONS

Saturday May 4th and May 11th, 80 children will be making their First Holy Communion at Holy Cross. Our Catechism teaches that the Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith. When we receive the Lord in the Eucharist, it is an act of thanksgiving to God. It recalls the Lord's Supper with his Apostles. The Eucharist is essential to our faith. It is the nourishment that enables us to remain spiritually strong and healthy.

Pope Francis refers to the Eucharist as a gift. He reminds us about how important the Eucharist is to our faith journey. He encourages us to receive the Eucharist as a family as often as possible if we are so disposed and in the state of grace. Our Holy Father spoke to a group of children in Italy as he recalled his First Holy Communion many years ago. He addressed the children and stated, "You will make your First Communion, always remember that day your whole life: the first day that Jesus came to us. He comes, makes himself one with us, makes himself our food, our nourishment to give us strength."

As we reflect on these words of Pope Francis, we can give thanks for all the teachers, relatives, and friends of these children who have helped prepare them for First Holy Communion, and who assist them in their future growth in faith through their prayers and actions. We especially thank the parents who are the primary educators of the children in the ways of the faith.

Lord Jesus, Bless the children coming forward to receive Holy Communion for the first time. May this day be an initial step into a life-long love of the Eucharist. Give them a hunger for this sacred food so that they turn to You for comfort, guidance, and wisdom as they grow into full discipleship.

- Felicitaciones a todos nuestros Jóvenes que se Confirmaron el sábado, continuemos orando por ellos, para que descubran sus dones y los pongan al servicio de nuestro Dios, su santa Iglesia y su comunidad.
- 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. Por su papel en el plan de salvación y porque María es esta mujer incomparable, la Iglesia en todo el mundo se alegra con la llegada del mes de mayo, ocasión especial para honrarla y rendirle homenaje, y por eso muchas parroquias preparan Coronaciones y otras manifestaciones de amor y devoción a Nuestra Señora.
- 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. Para Hombres y mujeres mayores de 18 años. Costo: \$125.00 por persona.
- **El Foro Cristiano. Las Clases.** Todos los viernes a las 6 de la tarde a 8 de la noche hasta el día 2 de junio 2024.
- Las inscripciones para la Educación Religiosa están abiertas, las aplicaciones están en línea o vaya a la oficina de Educación Religiosa.
- El sábado, 20 de abril se celebrará el Sacramento de la Confirmación de nuestros adolescentes de nuestras parroquias de Holy Cross y La Inmaculada Concepción.



ICC

Clases de Preparación Sacramental:

Primera Comunión: Ensayo: viernes, 26 de abril, a las 7pm en la iglesia.

Recepción del Sacramento de La Primera Comunión: Sábado, 27 de abril a las 10 de la mañana

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.iccmaryladel.org o visite la oficina parroquial. Se necesitan Catequistas y voluntarios. Si usted desea ser catequista o ayudar hable con la Sra. Alicia Poppiti

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: ALLELUIA! CHRIST HAS RISEN!

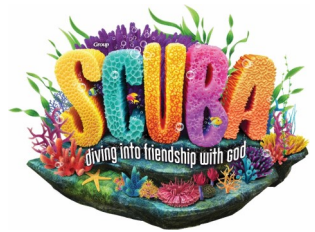
SRE Classes end on Sunday, May 5th with our Traditional May Crowning and Living Rosary.

First Communion: Congratulations to our 14 young people that received Christ in the Eucharist for the first time this past weekend.

Next Year: Registration for Religious Education 2024-2025 school year is open. Registrations will be taken from March 1st to August 30th. Registrations available at desk in hall during religious education classes and online. 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, August 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 team-work-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 science-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 Fantastic 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@iccmaryl.org Registration is now open and will close July 20th.



Here's a little bit of fun with a word search compiled of some of the many vocabulary words discussed and learned in our classroom Religion classes. How many can you find? How many can you define? Maybe you could ask your child for help!

G	C	B	L	M	N	I	Y	T	N	H	R	I	F	O	A	O	E	H	S	T	W	O
N	O	O	S	E	G	T	B	R	E	R	T	P	B	S	L	S	O	N	T	K	R	U
I	T	A	S	R	A	T	L	A	A	I	E	R	L	Y	N	P	E	S	N	Y	O	B
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I	H	R	E	C	O	N	C	I	L	I	A	T	I	O	N	E	W	E	T	T	O	G
T	O	S	S	U	U	S	T	S	L	U	B	C	A	C	I	D	T	L	L	I	Z	P
A	T	Y	U	O	M	N	I	C	I	M	I	A	N	O	C	O	C	U	O	D	C	E
T	S	X	S	I	T	S	O	C	A	T	N	E	P	R	I	A	N	I	N	E	E	N
S	F	E	Z	B	W	L	N	C	L	E	M	U	I	S	O	S	Z	A	R	M	A	L

Words to Find

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|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| Meditation | Jesus | Miracle | Beatitude | Evangelist | Mercy |
| Altar | Commandment | Faith | Petition | Incarnation | Tradition |
| Absolution | Temptation | Blessing | Resurrection | New Life | Peacemakers |
| Tabernacle | Crucifix | Parable | Parish | Reconciliation | Contrition |
| Penance | Prayer | Sin | Tomb | Meek | Alleluia |
| Stations of | Adoration | Pentecost | Confess | Ambo | Psalm |
| The Cross | Sacraments | | | | |

God-incarnate. The Council of Ephesus confirmed this title in the year 431, following some heretical claims (by Nestorius and others) that Jesus was not God-incarnate, but later took on that identity. The Council condemned Nestorius and declared Mary the “theotokos” or “God bearer” – or as expressed today, Mother of God. We celebrate Mary as Mother of God on January 1, which is a Holy Day of Obligation.

Blessed Virgin Mary The title “Blessed Virgin Mary” or sometimes put forth as simply “Virgin Mary” is -- like “Mother of God” -- a very commonly used title for Mary. Often in Catholic writing this title is frequently noted in abbreviated form as “BVM.” “Blessed Virgin Mary” demarcates in shorthand, the perpetual threefold virginity of Mary; namely that Mary was a virgin before, during and after the birth of Christ. From this we sometimes use the phrase “ever virgin” in describing Mary. The Lateran Council confirmed the doctrine of Mary’s perpetual virginity in the seventh century.

Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption. In his Apostolic Constitution document titled *Munificentissimus Deus* (now that’s a mouthful) issued on All Saints Day in 1950, Pope Pius XII declared the following, “We pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory. Hence if anyone, which God forbid, should dare willfully to deny or to call into doubt that which we have defined, let him know that he has fallen away completely from the divine and Catholic Faith” This infallible teaching of the faith makes two spiritual points: (1) since it is held that the wages of sin is death, and Mary was without the taint of sin, she was therefore able to be assumed body and soul into heaven; (2) the understanding that the gates of Heaven, closed due to the original sin of Adam and Eve, were now opened finds itself moved from the hypothetical to the actual, and Mary led the way (to Heaven) to show forth this truth. The Assumption of the BVM is observed on August 15.

Mary, Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. This title bears out the doctrinal teaching that Mary, conceived in the womb of St. Ann, was conceived without the taint of original sin. In this way, Mary was in the world in the same way that Eve was at the outset – free from sin. Thus, Mary is oft dubbed as “The New Eve” (which is another title of Mary to note). In this regard, Mary’s Immaculate Conception began creation anew, and marked a key turning point in salvation history. This dogma of the faith was infallibly declared on June 12, 1854, by Pope Pius IX. The Immaculate Conception is observed on December 8, and is the patronal feast day of the United States of America.

Our Lady. Okay, if the Big Ten can have 14 teams, then my Big Four can have five titles for Mary. “Our Lady” is probably the most common title given to Mary. The title of “Our Lady” demarcates and reminds us of the honor given to her holy name. In Italian this title is expressed as “Madonna” (never to be confused with the singer) and in French “Notre Dame” (never to be confused with the Big 10 Football Team, although the full name of Notre Dame University is actually Notre Dame du Lac – “Our Lady of the Lake,” which is another title of Mary).

The Merry Month of May. May is a special month for the Catholic Church, it is the month, when we, like the title of that old movie that I mentioned at the outset, say “I remember Mama.” And let’s remember Mary by praying frequently the prayer called “The Memorare” which reminds us of what we should, above all, remember about Mary, to wit:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor