



# 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 26, 2024

Holy Trinity

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



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](http://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](http://cdow.org/StopAssistedSuicide).

## WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

Ending May 12, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Regular	\$25,239	\$26,915	(\$1,676)
YTD	\$1,230,011	\$1,238,370	(\$8,359)
Needs	\$2,822	\$1,712	\$1,121

## WEEKLY OFFERING (ICC)

Ending May 12, 2024

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Regular	\$4,598
2nd Col-lection	\$700

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,

Before I get into the beef of this week's bulletin, let me take a moment to say a word about Memorial Day. On May 27, our nation will observe Memorial Day — a day set aside for our nation collectively and for each of us — to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our nation while serving in the armed forces. That is, we remember those who gave their lives, so that others might enjoy their right to life. Freedom and liberty have a price. When you get a chance, look at the image of the many graves at Arlington National Cemetery to get a taste what that price is. A country song from years ago entitled "Some Gave All" — with its lyrics sung from the perspective of a fallen member of the armed forces, says it well: "All gave some, some gave all. / Some stood through for the red, white and blue / and some had to fall. / And if you ever think of me / think of all your liberties / and recall some gave all." On behalf of the priests, deacons, staff, and all of us here at Holy Cross and Immaculate Conception Parishes, we wish one and all a happy, prayerful and reflective Memorial Day.

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In last week's bulletin, we got some historical background from the Old Testament era regarding the Levitical Priesthood of Judaism, as a way of laying the groundwork for discussing the Priesthood of Jesus Christ, and the Sacrament of Holy Orders. With that, this week I want to focus on the identity of the Priest, and connecting his role to that of the Bishop. Note: the role of Deacons, also tied to the Sacrament of Holy Orders, will be taken up in a later column.

**Like Baseball.** Well, it is baseball season — and I can tell because the Phillies as of my writing this column are having a great season; they are playing .708 baseball — 34 wins, 14 losses — the best record in Major League Baseball today. And I think that baseball might provide us with a good analogy for the priesthood. "How so?" you may ask, glancing down from the latest issue of Sports Illustrated. Well, priests specifically can be very well analogous to the pitchers on a baseball team.

**Looking at the Whole Pitcher.** On a baseball team there are two very distinct types of players: there are pitchers and then there is everyone else on the team. Pitchers are part of the team, to be sure, but they are distinct from the other players. I mean, just look at the stats kept for the pitcher — they are completely different from stats kept for any other position on the team. Also, the pitcher governs much of the action; when he is on the mound he is at the center of the

drama that we call a baseball game. He paces the game, varies the pitches, and nothing can happen in the game without him doing his job. One could imagine that a ballgame could be played without a shortstop or a left-fielder if needed, but not without a pitcher. And if the pitcher has a problem, or a weakness, or is just getting clobbered — he is replaced by another pitcher, not by some other player. A pitcher is one of the members of the team, he is playing the same game, seeking the same outcome, but his role is not necessarily better than all the other players, but it is distinct!

**I'd Like to Speak to a Manager.** The person that puts the pitcher on the mound is the manager — and the manager may be likened to a Bishop. The manager cares about all of the players on the team, but he has a special relationship to the pitcher. Thus we often see the manager go out and talk to the pitcher, but how often do you see the manager go and talk to the left-fielder? I am sure in the dugout that conversation occurs between the manager and the other players, but the manager is very acutely interested in the performance of his pitcher, as a Bishop has a special care for his priests.

**A Saving Grace.** So, looking at the Priesthood, the Priest occupies a unique place — he is chosen from among men, but his role and his place are distinct. He is a person just as the lay faithful are persons, and just as pitcher is a member of the team along with the other players. However, as a pitcher's role on the team is unique — who he is, where he stands, what he does, what his purpose is — so too, the priest is distinct among God's people. Thus, as the pitcher stands on a mound, so the Priest stands in the sanctuary; as a pitcher controls the pace of the game within its rules, so the Priest celebrates the Mass and Sacraments within the law of God and His Church. Just as a pitcher and the players on the team share the same goal of victory, so, too, do the Priest and the people of a parish likewise strive for the victory of eternal salvation in Christ. Just as when the pitcher gets a "win" or a "save" the whole team benefits, so, too, when the Priest succeeds in his ministerial work, it is a win for Christ and his Church — and it saves (souls, not ballgames).

**Womb, Service.** Continuing with the analogy, let us examine the question, "How does a man become a Priest?" Well, in the truest tradition, Priests are born, not made — they have been called

*(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

## 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](http://holycrossdover.org/school)

Linda Pollitt Principal, ext. 111

## MAILING ADDRESS

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

## CORPUS CHRISTI (JUNE 2)

FIRST READING: EXODUS 24:3-8

Moses tells the people the Lord's words and laws, and they respond with one voice.

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 9:11-15

Christ is the mediator of a new covenant. We are called to serve the living God.

GOSPEL: MARK 14:12-16, 22-26

The disciples make preparations for the Passover. Jesus takes and offers to his disciples the bread and wine, his body and blood.

## RECENTLY DECEASED

Our condolences to the families of :

- Lola Accetta
- Delores Sapienza

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

## CEMETERY NEWS

### Memorial Day Weekend

Cemetery Committee members will be in the Gathering Space following all Memorial Day weekend Masses. American flags for our Veterans' graves will be available for \$5. American flags are placed on our Veterans' graves for both Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Nearly 300 flags are placed on each of these holidays. This is the once-a-year opportunity to donate towards the purchase of flags, which, like everything else, continues to increase in price. Your support is greatly appreciated.



In addition to obtaining information about our cemetery, you can find out about ordering monument flower vases, veterans' flag holders, placing an order for an engraved brick paver, and signing up for an appointment call-back from our cemetery administrator.

## POST HOLIDAY CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

A post-holiday cemetery clean-up will be conducted on Saturday, June 8th. Everything except artificial and live flowers will be removed. Please remove items you wish to keep before then.



# MEMORIAL DAY

The priests, deacons, and staff wish all of you a very blessed Memorial Day weekend. May we remember those who gave their lives to keep us free.

## 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 background 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.

### A GIFT OF PRAYER TO OUR PRIEST!

**Seven Sisters Apostolate for Ladies:** Would you like to give a gift of prayer to our priest? We are looking for Ladies to continue a Seven Sisters Apostolate at Holy Cross.

**Ladies and Men:** We will also need substitutes

A Seven Sister prays for:

- One Holy Hour
- One Day a Week
- One Priest
- One Heart of Prayer

**Seven Sisters Apostolate** is an international Apostolate of women formed in 2011 who commit to pray for one hour on a distinct day of the week for a particular priest, thus covering a complete week, ideally prayed in the Presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We would like to recommit this ministry at Holy Cross on June 7, 2024, at 7:45 am, on The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Please be a part of this exciting and blessed ministry. At the request of the present sisters, there may be a quarterly meeting. You pray alone in quiet.

For more information please attend one of the following discussions:

- (1) June 4, St. Luke Room of ELC, at 8:45 am
- (2) June 11, St. Luke Room of ELC, at 8:45 am.

You may also visit the website: [www.sevensistersapostolate.org](http://www.sevensistersapostolate.org) or local contact: Delizabeth at 443-739-6067

## 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](mailto:dlatteri86@gmail.com).

## MASS INTENTION MAY/JUNE

<b>27 MONDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Leonaro Figueroa
<b>28 TUESDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Bernadetta Dorigo
<b>29 WEDNESDAY</b>	
HC 8:15 am	Bill Tedeman
<b>30 THURSDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	DM Dorigo Family
ICC 7:00 pm	For the People
<b>31 FRIDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Richard Latsko
<b>1 SATURDAY</b>	
HC 8:00 am	Richard Latsko
HC 5:00 pm	Margie and Gino Galli
<b>2 SUNDAY</b>	
HC 7:30 am	Mary T. Asman
ICC 8:30 am	Geraldine & Jerome Bevenour
HC 9:30 am	Maria Antonetta Maddalena
ICC 11:00 am	Jean Bishop
HC 11:30 am	Wilfredo Cuyco
ICC 1:00 pm	For the People

The Sanctuary Lamp in the church is lit for Dorothea Dittmeyer from May 26-June 1.  
The Sanctuary Lamp in the Adoration Chapel is lit for Beverly Bresnahan from May 26—June 1.

## MEMORIAL DAY

Our Memorial Day Mass will be held at 9 am in the church. All Veteran's are invited to attend our celebration.



JUNE 1/2, 2024

EMHC SERVERS

5:00 PM J. Bieker M. Sirolli J. Cutrona  
P. Sheldon N. Sirolli J. Novack

LECTORS

H. Walker

7:30 AM C. Brown M. Thompson A. Costa  
T. Dinan A. Wyllie E. Costa  
M. Costa

LECTORS

M. Jacobs

9:30 AM T. Arndt K Boyer J. Beugre  
D. Banach R. Wiley C. Beugre  
E. Ksenich

LECTORS

T. Baurys  
S. Winfrey

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

LECTORS

TBD

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

TBD

8:30 AM

LECTORS

T. Woodeshick

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

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. Mark your calendars for this spiritually enriching event! More details will follow. We look forward to seeing you there!

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to Catholic Forum each week. Next week, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Wilmington, and other parish milestones, when Anthony Albence is the guest.. The Catholic Forum podcast on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Amazon Music podcasts and YouTube.com/DioceesofWilm debuts every Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.; and on Relevant Radio 640 every Saturday afternoons at 1:30.

- Este domingo celebramos la Solemnidad de la Santísima Trinidad y el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica nos dice que la Trinidad es el misterio central de la fe cristiana. “Es el misterio de Dios en sí mismo” (Núm. 234). Dios se nos ha revelado a sí mismo como Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo. Él es tres personas en un solo Dios. Los tres puntos principales de la enseñanza de la Iglesia son: La Trinidad es Una — “No confesamos tres dioses, sino un solo Dios en tres personas... Las personas divinas no se reparten la única divinidad, sino que cada una de ellas es enteramente Dios...” (Núm. 253).
- La Novena de Corpus Christi para hoy será después de la misa en español las próximas serán a las 7:00 de la noche en la Iglesia,
- El domingo, 2 de junio, tendremos la Procesión en los predios de la parroquia, si usted quiere ayudar con la ambientación de uno de los Altares comunicase con la Sra. Arline Dosman.
- 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 acompáñenos 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 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

- Retiro de Parejas: Sábado, 8 de Junio de 8:00 AM a 4:00PM en nuestra parroquia hermana de la Inmaculada Concepción 522 Main Street, Marydel, MD 21649
- Clases de Preparación Sacramental:
- 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](http://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
- 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@iccmaryladel.org](mailto:dre@iccmaryladel.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 MINISTRY CATHOLIC HEART WORK CAMP AT HC**

CHWC will be coming to Dover June 17-20. If you, or someone you know, could use some help with light repairs, painting, or yard work, please contact Linda Darling at ldarling@holycrossdover.org or 302-674-5787 X12

**CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION FORMS:**

May be found on the website under Teaching the Faith - Sacramental Prep. Please return forms to the Religious Education Office no later than July 30.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

The Office of Youth Ministry would like to congratulate Jake Moyer and Alex Szell for receiving the St. Timothy Youth Award for their leadership and volunteerism in our parish and community. Both Jake and Alex have been active in the Peer Leader Group for three years. They are both beautiful examples to our young people by sharing their faith - we wish them all the best as they venture off to college.

Kristin Romano received the Volunteer of the Year Award. Kristin volunteered in our Confirmation Program this year. She has been a beautiful example of faith in action for our teens.

**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, 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 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@iccmaryl.org Registration is now open and will close July 20th.



*Memorare*

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help,  
or sought thy 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.*



And thus began a time-honored tradition at Holy Cross School. Many years ago we would line the sidewalk on State Street and fall into procession behind the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary carried high upon a pedestal by four eighth graders. The eighth grade was followed by the precious second graders in their First Holy Communion attire and the rest of



the school would process several times around the school campus praying the Rosary before entering the church for the Crowning of the Blessed Mother. It was a lovely event. It was during the pandemic that our procession had to be modified, and we have never returned to the original configuration. We still pray while walking in procession and we still crown the Blessed Mother, however all of it is done outdoors. The procession was the beginning of a day-long retreat day. The day included a cross-grade-level pilgrimage where we visited all seven of the statues of the BVM on our school campus. We prayed a Hail Mary at each site, each offering a special intention. Each student received a bead with one of the four letters spelling "Mary." Students created a Backpack Mary Keychain – a reminder that Mary is always with them wherever they go! Lunch was picnic style under the clouds with joy and a sense of fellowship in everyone's heart. Classroom Marian activities rounded out our day. I am grateful to our Religion Committee for planning the days events. It is a wonderful way to honor our Mother Mary with an outward sign of our internal devotion to the Queen of Heaven.



to the Priesthood from the womb, but need to answer the call that beckons them to God's priestly service. Some folks will tell you that pitchers are born, not made – that there is a natural ability that some folks have in that regard. That ability can be honed and strengthened but never created. And so, with that in mind, the stories of a baseball pitcher and a priest have parallels.

**Taking the Call.** When a pitcher-to-be first discovers that he wants to pitch, it is usually at a younger age and he becomes more and more acquainted with the sport by practicing – his game. Likewise, a priestly call commonly comes at a fairly young age (yes, there are those 50-year old vocations, but those are not the norm). And that person keeps following that call by practicing – not his slider, but his faith. A future pitcher may be scouted in high school or college or even after college; likewise the future priest may be scouted – more so encouraged or prodded – towards his vocation by other priests, by a teacher, by family or a Diocese's vocation director during school years, college, and beyond. Now, once he makes the commitment, both the pitcher and the priest-to-be begin more formal training: the priest-to-be for a Diocese, and the pitcher-to-be for a team.

**The Minors and the Majors.** The pitcher starts down in perhaps a single "A" short season minor league team, while the priest-to-be might start in what is called a "minor seminary" (or college seminary). If the pitcher-to-be is good, he rises to the succeeding levels, "A" to "AA" to "AAA" to the major leagues. If the priest-to-be is good he rises to the succeeding levels, "minor seminary" to "major seminary" (where theology is studied) to "lector" (he can read at Mass), to "acolyte" (he can serve at Mass), and to ordination as a transitional Deacon (this is where the priest-to-be enters the Major Leagues, he's not on the mound yet, but he is slated to be). As a Transitional Deacon, the Priest-to-be can baptize, perform marriages, bury the dead, proclaim the Gospel, bring communion to the sick, etc.

**Taking Orders.** Then it's time: As per the needs of the team determined by the manager, a player is put into the game, so, too, as per the needs of the Diocese determined by the Bishop, the transitional Deacon is called to Holy Orders for Ordination as a Priest. The Priest candidate is brought to an ordination Mass, where the Bishop (ministering the Sacrament of Holy Orders) lays hands upon him, and the Priest candidate makes solemn promises to the Bishop and that Bishop's successors. In the course of that Rite of Ordination, the Holy Spirit descends upon the man and raises him to the "Presbyterate" or "Priesthood." When that happens, from that day forward the man, now the Priest, becomes conformed to Christ in a profound way – his role among the people of God is that of a Sacred Minister. Just like the pitcher whose role on the team is distinct because of who-he-is (a pitcher), so too, the Priest's role in the life of the Church is distinct because of who-he-is.

**A Vocation not Avocation.** Now, all analogies breakdown, and this does one does, too; the Priest is a priest on the level of his soul and being, and he stands as an *alter Christi* (another Christ). No baseball pitcher, however good, is changed at the level of his soul and being (although the Phillies Zach Wheeler and Aaron Nola, at their best this season, have occasionally caused me to ponder this point). Also, as much as even the best pitcher loves the game, baseball is not a vocation, but an avocation – it is for a living, it is for enjoyment, it can even be a passion, but it can never be a way of life (although, Red Sox fans may disagree).

**The Priest.** And so, the point of this article is not to be a theological treatise on the Priesthood, nor a run through the Ritual or issues concerning priesthood. The point of this article is to draw a common analogy to help put the Priest in perspective relative to the people of God. The Priest is a person, he is chosen from among men, but he is not just like everyone else inasmuch as he has a unique role. That role has everything to do with who-he-is (a priest) and not just what he does. And frankly, if the pitcher does badly, a team can still win a game, but it makes it that much harder – so, too, if the priest fails in his ministerial role, or wavers in his faith, the people of God can still find salvation through the Church in all of its glory, but it makes it that much harder.

So, pray for your priests, that they may be strong and sound, and that by their presence and ministry may they prevent the opponent (that serpent) from scoring too many runs against our team. And just as so many moms and dads would love to see little Junior to grow up to be a pitcher, with that same fervor and same excitement, they should likewise want that he should be a Priest. They should do this because vocations to the priesthood, like any great baseball game, indeed, do begin at home! Play ball!

Yours in Christ,  
Fr. James Lentini  
Pastor