



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

November 21, 2021

Feast of Christ the King

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
No choirs at the Masses at the present time; a cantor will be available for the 5 pm and the 9:30 and 11:30 am Masses.

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday, 8 am
During Lent, Monday and Friday, 12:10 pm
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

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Saturday, 9:30 am
Thursday, 6:30 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

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.

MASS BOOK 2022 (HC)

The **Mass Book for 2022 is now open.** Due to the reduced number of Masses we are currently offering, we must restrict the number of requests. Please see below:

1. You can **request ONLY 3 Masses** and payment of \$10 per Mass is required at the time of the request.
2. Requests **MUST** be written out providing **your name, phone number, email, maximum three requests listing date and time of request (with alternative dates) and with person's name (remember intention can be for one person or members of same family only for the intentions).** We will do our best to honor your request. *Please note we are only offering the 8 am Masses Monday through Saturday, 5 pm Saturday Mass, Sunday 7:30 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am Spanish Masses.*
3. Requests will be taken Monday through Fridays, 8:30 am to 2 pm only.
4. Requests for the Church tabernacle candle or Adoration Chapel candle can also be made. \$10 per request. Limit **one** request per person.

Please call the office with any questions.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING FROM OUR CLERGY AND PARISH STAFF.

WE WILL BE CLOSED ON THANKSGIVING DAY AND FRIDAY. GOD BLESS.

WEEKLY OFFERING (HC)

November 7, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED	BUDGETED/ NEEDED	DIFFERENCE
Offertory	\$25,268	\$26,000	(\$732)
YTD	\$480,799	\$491,300	(\$10,501)
Needs	\$1,667	\$1,480	\$187

WEEKLY OFFERING (IC)

Ending November 7, 2021

OFFERTORY TYPE	RECEIVED
Offertory	\$4,155
2nd	\$200

For Holy Cross, you can also Sign up for Faith Direct or call the office to leave your name and phone number if you wish to make your contribution by a credit card.

We appreciate your generosity to the church.

Dear Parishioners,

Over the past few Pastor's Columns in the month of November, I have focused on the Church's teaching regarding the three states of the Church: The Church on Earth (the Church Militant), the Church in Heaven (the Church Triumphant) and the Church in Purgatory (the Church Suffering). The Church Militant was covered in the column two weeks ago, the Church Triumphant was addressed in last week's column, and thus, this week I finished the tripart series with some teachings and thoughts on Purgatory, the Church suffering.

Offer It Up. When I was a kid in Catholic school, if you hurt yourself on the playground, were struggling with some subject being taught, or were having a difficult day, the nun who taught the class would say something to you like, "Just offer it up for the poor souls in Purgatory." And thus we turned our dilemma or distress into the prayer of sorts for those went before us, that they might quick and sweet repose in Heaven — thus making clear to us, even at the young age, that even our troubles could be put to good purpose. Thus these day, when I find myself sitting in traffic on I-95, with great annoyance and perturbation, I offer it all up for the poor souls. And last week the traffic was so bad around Wilmington, that I must have sprung a couple of dozen souls from Purgatory just traveling between exits 4 and 6 in Wilmington.

I-95, Prayers and Purgatory. Okay, so we offer it up. But, we need to know more than that as adults in the faith — we need to understand the nature of Purgatory. We need to embrace that saying that someone died and is in Purgatory (which is the default position of our faith) is not a negative statement, it is a blessing and clear sign of God's mercy for mankind. It makes it clear that the Poor Souls in Purgatory, kind of like me in the midst of I-95 traffic and angst, will be getting to our destination... but there will be some time, faith, patience and prayer needed. That being said, let's talk Purgatory!

Basic Theology of Purgatory: A Touch of Grace. The Catechism. The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines purgatory as a "purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven," which is experienced by those "who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified" (CCC 1030). The purification is necessary because nothing unclean can enter the presence of God in heaven (Rev. 21:27) and, while we may die with our mortal sins forgiven, there can still be many impurities in us, specifically venial sins and the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven.

Just Passing Through. People don't so much go to Purgatory as much as 'pass through' purgatory. Anyone who has not been completely freed of sin and

its effects is, to some extent, "unclean." Through repentance he may have gained the grace needed to be worthy of heaven, which is to say, he has been forgiven and his soul is spiritually alive. But that's not sufficient for gaining entrance into heaven. He needs to be cleansed completely. A Holy Soul enters heaven only when it is totally stainless (prepared), and not before. It receives the beatific vision only when it is ready for it, when there is no smallest element of self not wholly made perfect (ready), and when it can bear that supreme gift of God. Yet we know our prayers can help it.

Scripture and Purgatory. 2 Maccabees gives us insight about praying for the souls who have died, but are not yet in Heaven (i.e., are in Purgatory) which in turn lays the groundwork for our basic underpinnings regarding Purgatory. Two passages make the case for praying for the dead that they may be purged (purged) from their sin, and be able to find eternal rest in heaven. The first passage I will quote concerns Jews who found to have been wearing amulets based on superstition of a false god. This was deemed sinful. Having died wearing these amulets it was deemed that they carried this sinfulness into death:

"But under the tunic of each of the dead they found amulets sacred to the idols of Jamnia, which the law forbids the Jews to wear. So it was clear to all that this was why these men had fallen. They all therefore praised the ways of the Lord, the just judge who brings to light the things that are hidden. Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out." (2 Maccabees 12:40-42a)

The text then goes on, to identify that the person praying for these departed brethren as he was "expecting the fallen to rise again" — that is, that he believed in eternal life. Thus:

"[H]e did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be absolved from their sin." (2 Maccabees 45-46)

But if there anywhere else in scripture that covers this concept of purgation or being made pure or prepared for Heaven? Regarding this idea of "purification" — there is another broader basis for this aspect of Purgatory. In St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 5:2b-5 we read:

"We boast in hope of the glory of God... we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope,

Continued on page 10

HC & ICC CLERGY

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

HC CLERGY

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

ICC CLERGY

Mr. Sherman Mitchell	Deacon
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HC STAFF

Parish Office	302 674 5787
Jane Green/Susan Cutrona	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

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Thanksgiving is coming up this week. You've probably already told your beloved many qualities that you appreciate about him or her. Can you think of a new one? Or perhaps just thank them for something simple he or she did yesterday.

PARENTING POINTERS

What if you were king or queen for a day? What would you like to do for your child (ren)? Ask them what they would do if they were king or queen for a day?

SVDP MEETING (IC)

St. Vincent de Paul meeting will meet from now on in the office building every month on the 2nd Monday of the month at 5 pm.

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP (IC)

We meet the 3rd Thursday of the month at 11 AM in the ICC Parish Hall. Knitters & crocheters Welcome. Questions call Karen Cairns 302-382-9316

READINGS FOR NOVEMBER 28

FIRST SUNDAY ADVENT

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 33:14-16

The prophet looks forward to a time when honesty and integrity will flourish.

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12—4:2

Paul urges the Christian community to live the life that God wants.

GOSPEL: LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

Jesus tells his disciples that despite the world's troubles and turmoil, liberation is close at hand.



Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9 am at Holy Cross Church.

SECULAR DISCALCED CARMELITES

Is God calling you to a deeper prayer life and relationship with Him? The Secular Discalced Carmelites (OCDS) may be for you. We are a Catholic lay order of men and women undertaking to live an evangelical life of fraternity and contemplative prayer, according to the Carmelite Saints. We meet in NEWARK, DE on the 3rd Saturday of each month. To learn more, please contact ThirdOrderCarmelitesofDE@yahoo.com.

CATHOLIC FORUM

Listen to the Catholic Forum radio program/podcast each week. Next Saturday, November 27th, tune-in to learn about St. Norbert and the Norbertine Fathers, when Fr. James Herring, O. Praem, Prior of the Immaculate Conception Priory, is the guest. Catholic Forum airs on Saturday afternoons at 1:30 on Relevant Radio 640. You can listen online anytime at cdow.org/CatholicForum, or by searching "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, iHeartRadio, or Amazon Music podcasts. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, links and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at facebook.com/CatholicForum.

VOCATIONS

Christ spoke of the talents each one of us has, talents which must not be buried. Our calling is to take those talents, develop them fully, and then use them in establishing His kingdom on earth. Are you using your talents to fulfill your vocation to service? Are you an active Christian in the parish, at your workplace, and in the home? Take some time today to reflect on how you might use your special talents in the service of the Kingdom. Serra for priestly and religious vocations

RECENTLY DECEASED (HC AND ICC)

Please pray for the souls of our recently deceased parishioners:

Catherine Beck
Bernard Faulker
Lynn DiFronzo
Thomas White, Sr.

May the Souls of the Faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.

NEW PARISHIONERS (HC)

Welcome to our newly registered parishioners:

- *Mayia Hernandez, Flavio and Arnold Vargas*

Newly Baptized (HCI)

Congratulations to our newest baptized member:

- *Lucas Gael Aguilar Hernandez*

MASS INTENTIONS

NOVEMBER

22 MONDAY

HC 8:00 am Martin Schilling

23 TUESDAY

HC 8:00 am Thomas Fitzgibbon

24 WEDNESDAY

HC 8:00 am Martin Belt

25 THURSDAY

HC 9:00 am DM of Timtishin Family

26 FRIDAY

HC 8:00 am Charles Pitts

27 SATURDAY

HC 8 am Dorothy Schuller
 HC 5 pm Lida Smith

28 SUNDAY

HC 7:30 am Lida Smith
 ICC 8:30 am Carl & Barbara Thompson
 HC 9:30 am Charles A. & Therese M. Stump
 ICC 11 am Margaret "Peggy" O'Meara
 HC 11:30 am Bridget McGlynn
 ICC 1 pm For the People

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

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL (IC)

Soup and Silent Auction at Immaculate Conception in Marydel
 Sunday Nov. 28, 2021
 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
 Soups \$5 per container
 \$1 Donuts and Coffee for Early Birds

MINISTRY OF BLACK CATHOLICS

You are invited to the St. Martin de Porres Celebration Mass sponsored by The Ministry for Black Catholics on Sunday, November 7th at 11:00 a.m. at St. Helena Catholic Church, 602 Philadelphia Pike, Wilmington, Delaware. The Main Celebrant will be Bishop William Koenig. Music will be provided by St. Helena's Church Choir & The Wilmington Diocese Gospel Choir.

HOLY CROSS

EMHC

SERVERS

5:00 PM P. Gerard D. Novack N. Kosior
J. Bieker V. Pearl
M. MacLeish

LECTORS

L. Christiansen

7:30 AM J. Fischer R. O'Neill C. Wilk
S. Hands A. Wyllie
R. Fritzsche

LECTORS

D. Kilby

9:30 AM P. Ford M. Sossich E. Sellig
S. Ford N. West
C. Robinson

LECTORS

T. Baurys

11:30 AM M. Ramirez E. Guzman C. Costes
B. Guzman E. Cortes
C. Geronimo

LECTORS

A. Luna

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30 AM K. Durham

LECTORS

.G. Godfrey

11:00 AM L. Schlaupitz

LECTORS

D. King

1:00 PM

LECTORS

- Attention Holy Cross liturgical ministers: If you have not responded to our request to send in updated information on which ministry you are involved with, your name, contact information, and your ministry you are involved with, please do so now so we can get you on our next schedule. If we don't hear from you, we cannot place you on the schedule. Contact M. Dornberger at 674-5787, ext 116, or email mdornberger@holycrossdover.org

WANTED—PICKUP TRUCK (HC)

Holy Cross Parish is in need of a used pick up truck for our maintenance department. Our current pick up has died and is beyond repair. If you have, or know of someone who would like to donate a used pickup that is in good condition to the parish, please contact the Parish Office, extension 113. Thank you for your consideration.

ADORATION CHAPEL (HC)

The Adoration Chapel is open again each day from 5 am to 9 pm. If you would like to take a permanent time slot, it's not too late. We still have many openings on various days. See the openings listed below. Call Joann Pate today at 674-4496 to reserve a time for you and/or your family.

SUNDAY 7 am, 10 am, 12 pm, 1 pm, 4 pm, 5 pm

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY 2 pm

FRIDAY 8 am

SATURDAY 5 am, 8 am, 10 am, 11 am, 2 pm, 7 pm

IHEAP APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Catholic Charities is taking applications for the **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)** for the upcoming heating season. This federally-funded program assists low-income Delawareans with heating bills through direct payments to home energy suppliers. The benefit is based on a household's income, size, and type of fuel.

In order to qualify, you must make an appointment with Catholic Charities. Call your local Catholic Charities office. Regular office hours are 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. In Kent County, call 302-674-1782.

SAMARITAN NEEDS DONATIONS OF FOOD

Please help our Samaritans this Thanksgiving season by donating some items that can be used in the Thanksgiving baskets. All nonperishable items can be left on the table by the Samaritan door. We can use canned vegetables, yams, instant potatoes, soups, jello, cranberry sauce, stuffing, juices, etc. Frozen turkeys can be left freezers in that area as well. Thank you for your generosity.

NUESTRA FAMILIA HISPANIC

- “Caminando Juntos” El Sínodo es una invitación para que cada diócesis se tome un camino de profunda renovación inspirada por la gracia del Espíritu de Dios., plantea una cuestión principal: ¿Cómo se realiza hoy en nuestra Iglesia el "caminar juntos" en la sinodalidad? ¿Qué pasos nos invita a dar el Espíritu Santo para crecer en nuestro "caminar juntos"? El obispo Koenig nos invita a que invoquemos y oremos en comunidad o individualmente todos los días el

Adsumus, Sancte Spiritus (Oración invocando al Espíritu Santo.)

Estamos ante ti, Espíritu Santo, reunidos en tu nombre.

Tú que eres nuestro verdadero consejero: ven a nosotros, apóyanos, entra en nuestros corazones.

Enséñanos el camino, muéstranos cómo alcanzar la meta.

Impide que perdamos el rumbo como personas débiles y pecadoras.

No permitas que la ignorancia nos lleve por falsos caminos.

Concédenos el don del discernimiento, para que no dejemos que nuestras acciones se guíen por perjuicios

y falsas consideraciones. Conducenos a la unidad en ti,

para que no nos desviemos del camino de la verdad y la justicia,

sino que en nuestro peregrinaje terrenal nos esforzamos por alcanzar la vida eterna.

Esto te lo pedimos a ti, que obras en todo tiempo y lugar,

en comunión con el Padre y el Hijo por los siglos de los siglos. Amén

- El Ministerio de Arte y Ambientación se reunirá el viernes, 26 de noviembre, a las 5:00 pm para limpiar y ambientar el templo para el adviento. Si alguno quisiera ayudar esta bienvenido.
- La fiesta en honor a Nuestra Sra. De Guadalupe se llevará acabo de la siguiente manera: el sábado, 11 de diciembre de 10- la noche a 12 media noche tendremos las mañanitas. El domingo que es el Tercer Domingo de Adviento se celebrara la misa correspondiente al Adviento. La imagen estará dentro del templo con sus respectivas flores. Se dará una bolsa con tamales

y atole para llevar después de la misa. Si usted desea colaborar para las flores, los tamales, atole por favor comuníquese con el Sr. Epitacio Méndez y la Sra. Marta Espinosa.

- Si usted está interesado en participar y compartir sus talentos como lector, ministerio de música, ujier, ministros Extraordinario de la Comunión, Arte y Ambientación, dar Clases Pre-bautismales. Por favor hable con los coordinadores de los ministerios o llame a la oficina al 302-674-5787 ext. 118
- **Symbolon** Explicación de la fe católica: conocimiento de la fe. Estamos ofreciendo una serie de videos / libros de estudio una vez más El costo es de \$ 25 para el libro del participante Parte 1
- En español en la parroquia de la Santa Cruz. Con el padre Oscar y la Sra. Arline. Todos los viernes a las 6:00 – 8:00 PM de la tarde el ELC. Si está interesado hable con la Sra. Arline.
- En ingles en la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción con la Sra. Alicia. Todos los lunes a las 7:00P.M.
- RETIRO DE ADVIENTO: sábado 27 de noviembre en el salón parroquial de la parroquia de la Inmaculada Concepción de 2-8 PM. Todos están cordialmente invitados
- La Sociedad de San Vicente de Paul invita a una Subasta Silenciosa y Sopas el domingo, 28 de noviembre de 9:30 AM a 12:30 PM en el salón de la Inmaculada Concepción en Marydel, MD

EDUCACIÓN RELIGIOSA (IC)

Adolescentes en Preparación para la Confirmación la próxima sesión será domingo, 30 de noviembre a las 2:30 de la tarde a 5:00 PM en el salón.

Primera Reconciliación nuestra próxima sesión será el martes 12 de diciembre.

Formación de Adultos: Si usted está interesado en algún curso de formación para adultos, o ha oído de algún curso que sea de su interés por favor llame a la oficina.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (HC)

Regular Class – November 21 at 3:30pm

Next class December 5

- Children are to be dropped off at the double doors next to the Elementary office.
- 7th and 8th graders are in the Holy Cross Junior High building.
- No one except students and volunteers are allowed to enter either building.
- MASKS ARE MANDATORY.
- Hall monitors will assist getting children to their classes.

Dismissal from the ramp side will be as follows:

- Grades 5, 6, 7, 8 and Sacramental Prep – 5:15pm
- Grades K-1 -5:20pm
- Grades 2- 5:25pm
- Grades 3-4 5:30pm

If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302)674-5787 X 122.

Interested in enrolling a student in Religious Education? Please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

LAFF (Living as a Family of Faith Catechesis)

Class – Today, November 14, Next class December 12th; 10:30am-12:30pm in the Matthew/Mark Room;

Interested in enrolling a student in LAFF, please contact Tammy Korosec at either tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or call (302) 674-5787 X 122

ADULT EDUCATION (Corrected Information)

Advent is around the corner! Holy Cross is offering the class Advent: Preparing for Christ Cycle C. Classes will be held on Tuesdays at 9 am or 7 pm in the Matthew/Mark room in the Early Learning Center upstairs. Classes will be begin on November 30, 2021. There will be a \$17 for the workbook that accompanies the class.

If you are interested in attending, please register by either emailing Tammy Korosec at tkorosec@holycrossdover.org or calling (302) 674-5787 X 122. Please register by November 15.

YOUTH AT HOLY CROSS

Candidates attending overnight retreat - please check your emails for final information.

Cookie Baking - Saturday December 11. Attention all Junior and High School teens. We

will be baking cookies to place in the Samaritan Food Baskets for Christmas. Please come help with our dozens of cookies.

We will divide into two groups - two times. 9 am to 10:30 am and 10:30 am to noon.

Please let Mrs. Darling know which time you would like to help.

Youth Choir—If you are interested in assisting with music at the 5 pm Saturday Mass on the third Saturday of the month, please contact the Parish Office. We are in need of singers, percussion, piano and guitars. Rehearsal is each Tuesday evening at 6:30 in the choir room.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/SRE (IC)

Class this weekend, November 21st

There will be no SRE on Sunday, November 28th, Thanksgiving weekend. Classes resume December 5th.

Sacraments:

1st Reconciliation Prep- next session on Tuesday, November 30 at 6:30-7:30pm

Youth confirmation prep- Next session will be Sunday, December 12th, 2:30-5pm in the hall.

Symbolon will continue until December 13th. Part 2 will begin after New year.

Adult Formation: If there is a course or series you have heard of and have interest in, please call the office and let Alicia Poppiti know. We would be happy to offer more courses for adults in our parish.



What does Fall smell like? After a rain, the wet leaves and ground underfoot, there's a cool breeze wafting through the air...what earthy aroma does the air carry with it as it swirls about? At the end of the week on a Friday afternoon walking to my car I gratefully inhaled a large portion of the gentle wind, grateful for the seasonal colors, the end of the week, the end of a wonderful day, and trying to put descriptive words to the *smell* of Fall. It is by far my favorite season. It symbolizes so many good things for me. This year the leaves seem to bear so many different, glorious colors. I suppose all due to the little bit of a frosty morning not too long ago. I could have cried bitter tears when I learned from a meteorologist that the upcoming winter is of the La Nina variety. Why do they even bother to sell winter coats anymore?

It was the morning of the last school day of the week. Friday. I walked into the fifth-grade classroom. "Mrs. Pollitt, are you our sub today?" I admit to not being in the best frame of mind. I walked over to the teacher's desk to review the plan for the day---it seemed simple enough. In a quick few minutes, we were all standing in response to "Good morning Holy Cross; please stand for prayers." I prayed a few silent prayers of my own before we were off to the races, so to speak. I make no secret of the fact that I love our fifth grade. For some reason they wormed a special place in my heart a few years back, and there they have stayed. And now, I was going to spend the day with them. Standing at the front of the room, I reviewed the plan for the day with them when all of a sudden; we heard was this sound. There was a pale gray color, and that sound from the other side of the windows. Through the windowpanes we looked at a silver-gray color that was rainfall! The sound of the rainfall garnered everyone's attention. It looked and sounded like a waterfall. No one said anything. "No outdoor recess today, boys and girls..."

As a teacher I always knew that a classroom full of students can turn a frown upside down. Once the day begins, the back and forth between us ensues, I outline the plan for the class period, then I always knew it was going to be a great day.

I put some directions on the chalkboard, (yes, I used chalk) I gave a vocabulary test, they completed their handwriting pages, (what beautiful cursive!) they completed a Veteran's Day activity, and then later in the day, we discussed a little bit about the first moon landing and all of a sudden--- I was grateful for having to wear a mask. Did I imagine a bit of surprise on their faces when I told them I actually watched the event on television way back in 1969? We discussed weightlessness, the soft and dusty surface of the moon, moonrocks, rocket splashdown, and why it takes less time to return to earth from the lunar sphere than to travel to the lunar sphere. They had a follow-up writing assignment to complete. I complimented them over and over on their beautiful cursive penmanship---really, I wish you could see it. Sadly, for me, there was no Math in my schedule.

We were in the cafeteria when Mrs. Speed asked me what I thought of outdoor recess. The day had undoubtedly taken on a brighter look. I responded by saying that I had told "my class" that I thought we could go outside, but we would have to stay off the field. As I uttered the words, "my class" I felt a certain quickening in my chest---it's been so long since I have been able to say "my class." Taking a last bite of my pizza before lining up, I thought of how I had enjoyed my lunch in the cafeteria. It was fun, the conversation was great, and I didn't have to juggle lunch on a small corner of my desk next to the computer screen while answering email!

Mason and I were walking side by side at the head of the line when he asked "Mrs. Pollitt, will we be able to use the playground? It was so much fun watching the children run about, playing tag, climbing monkey-bars, swinging on the swings, all seemingly without a care in the world. This is just as it should be, I said to myself watching all of them have so blasted much fun. Mrs. Speed blew the whistle signaling the end of the fun, as I wondered to myself whatever happened to my whistle.

The afternoon seemed to fly by, and it was time for them to go home. We prayed, and everyone got in their respective lines. We exchanged our good-byes, best wishes for a good weekend, and I returned to an empty classroom. I went to close the windows, and it had already been done. I went to straighten the desks, but they looked fine to me. Without a word, these end of the day tasks had already been seen to their completion. I straightened papers, erased the chalkboard, and went downstairs. Was there the slightest bit of melancholy?

I have always said that if I ever retired, I would never substitute. But this day, this class, this opportunity, was a gift. A much-needed change of pace, one giving me reason to reconsider my otherwise steadfast conviction.

Getting into my car I reflected upon my day once again---how the rain had turned to sunshine---much as my early day frame of mind had made such a complete transformation. Pulling off the parking lot and turning on to State Street; I said to myself---I gotta buy a whistle.

and hope does not disappoint.” (Roman 5:2b-5)

This Scripture reveals that purification is applied to us over the course of time through, among other things, the process of sanctification through which the Christian is made holy. Sanctification involves affliction and endurance, and Purgatory is that final stage of sanctification that some of us need to undergo before we enter heaven. Purgatory is the final phase of Christ’s applying to us the purifying redemption that he accomplished for us by his death on the cross.

The Soul-full Art of Purgatory? In Catholic art purgatory is usually portrayed by images of men and women engulfed in a purifying fire. The men and women are usually reaching up to heaven or they have their faces buried in their hands as a sign of shame for their sins. Many pieces of art show the Blessed Mother with the Christ Child looking down into purgatory, with the Christ Child pointing to specific poor souls and calling them forth; angels are usually shown pulling that selected poor soul out of purgatory. This is done to emphasize that Christ is the just judge and the soul mediator, and that Mary intercedes for the poor souls to her Son. Many of these pictures also show the saints in Heaven partaking in the intercession or welcoming the souls to Heaven.

Prayer and Purgatory. The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect (Catechism of the Catholic Church #1030). This practice of prayer is based on the practice of prayer for the dead mentioned in Sacred Scripture. “Therefore (Judas Maccabeus) made atonement for the dead, that they might be delivered from their sin.” (2 Macc. 12:45).

Mass Celebration. From the beginning Holy Mother Church has honored the memory of the dead by offering prayers in suffrage for them. Why is a Mass offered? The Holy Mass is a Eucharist, that is, an act of thanksgiving, of praise, of joy. It is also the most efficacious means to help the souls languishing in purgatory. Why? Because the Holy Mass is the highest act of worship and the highest form of prayer. The souls long for the Precious Blood of Jesus; how so, you may wonder? For spiritual insight in this regard, I turn us over to St. Thomas Aquinas, Fr. John Peter Arendzen (dubbed in his day as “preacher of the century”), and of course the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

“As dew refreshes and raises up the withering plants and flowers, so does the Blood of Christ revive and comfort and bring renewed hope to the Poor Souls in purgatory.” – St. Thomas Aquinas, Doctor of the Church

“[W]hen in answer to our prayers God remits the whole or a part of the sentence of the Holy Souls, the shackles of past sin [temporal punishment due for sin] do, as a matter of fact, fall away from that soul. Its stains are being washed away, the rust of former faults which tarnished its brightness is removed by the omnipotence of God. The weight that keeps it down and away from God is lifted, and it rises towards God with instinctive and irresistible force.” - Purgatory and Heaven by Fr. John Peter Arendzen, D.D.

(CCC 960) “Our prayer for them [the poor souls] is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective.

Thoughts from John, Paul, George and Ringo. The Beatles sang, “Help! I need somebody / Help! Not just anybody / Help! You know I need someone / Help!” And using the words of the Beatles, let’s be the people who help those souls in Purgatory with our prayers as they make their journey. How can we help?

- Do Penance: fast, sacrifice or endure a difficulty and “offer it up” for the poor souls.
- Perform good works: Visit the sick, engage in the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, take someone to Mass, etc.
- Give Alms: Have Masses offered for the Holy Souls.
- Pray for those in Purgatory: A Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament after Mass is extremely efficacious for the Holy Souls and can lead to the gaining of a plenary indulgence.
- Pray for those who are in danger of dying without being in the state of Sanctifying Grace.

With this, I conclude the Pastor’s Column series on the three states of the Church, and want to wish you and your family a Happy and Prayerful Thanksgiving — thanking God, in a special way, for the gift of the Church in Heaven, on Earth, and in Purgatory reigned over by Christ, the King, our Lord and our Savior.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. James Lentini
Pastor