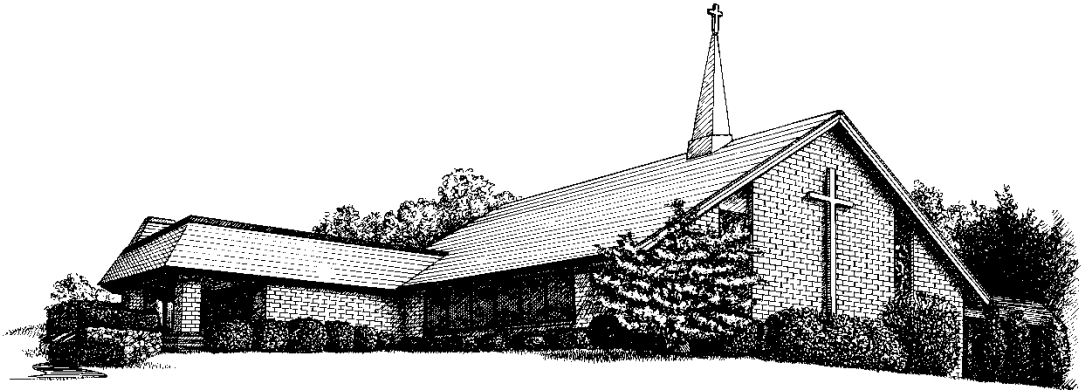


Holy Cross Parish ~ Župnija Svetega Križa



Welcome to Holy Cross Parish

750 Tahmore Drive, Fairfield, CT 06825-2519

We extend a warm welcome to all newcomers. May you find our parish a place where your faith will be nourished.

Parish Staff:

Rev. Alfred F. Pečarič, S.T.L., *Pastor*
Mrs. Clare Coyne - *Parish Secretary*
Mr. John Ertlmaier, CPA – *Bookkeeper*
Rectory: 203. 372. 4595
Parish Office: 203. 372. 4595; Fax 203. 372. 4668
Parish E-mail: holy_cross_church@sbcglobal.net

Mass Schedule:

Monday – Thursday 9:00 am
Vigil Mass: Saturday 4:30 pm
Sunday Masses: 9:30 and 11:00 am
Holy Day Masses as announced

Prayer Request Line:

Ann Marie Schiessl: 203. 255. 0866

Mr. William Sekelsky - *Finance Board Chairman*
Patrick J. Walsh, Esq. - *President of Parish Advisory Board*
Mrs. Dorothy Fejes – *Catechist: 203. 259. 4905*

Organists:

Mr. Anthony Sagnella – *Sundays*
Mr. John Masi + Mrs. Lori Cellini-*Saturdays*

Sacraments:

Baptism: Preparation Class is by appointment only.
Arrangement for baptism will be made during the class.
Confession: Saturday, 3:45-4:15 pm and by appointment.

Council and Societies:

Parish Advisory Board: Quarterly – 7:00 pm
Finance Board: Quarterly – 7:00 pm



MASS INTENTIONS

MAŠNI NAMENI

Sat. Dec. 03 4:30 pm In honor of Phil Cerrone, Jr. – Phil & Virginia Cerrone

Sun. Dec. 04 9:30 am + Michael Mackno – Glenn & Carol Mackno
11:00 am + Philip J., Philip C., and Florence M. DeProfio

Mon. Dec. 05 9:00 am + John Ray – Anthony Belovich & Family

Tue. Dec. 06 9:00 am + Deceased Members of the Schindler Family – Mr. & Mrs. Bernhardt Schindler

Wed. Dec. 07 9:00 am + Marge Sabia – A Friend
4:30 pm Intention of Prevention of War – Justina Pšeničnik

Thur. Dec. 08 9:00 am + Rocco Pugliese – The Pugliese Family
5:30 pm Intention of Prevention of War – Justina Pšeničnik

Sat. Dec. 10 4:30 pm + Stanley & Bertha Trojanowski – The Trojanowski Family

Sun. Dec. 11 9:30 am + Eugenia Pečarič – Her Children
11:00 am + Alex & Mary Zlatar and John Gurrieri – Anna Gurrieri & Family

Sat. Dec. 03 4:30 pm J. Piczko/ L Selimović

Sun. Dec. 04 9:30 am B. Sekelsky/ P. Walsh
11:00 am P. Sullivan/ D. Paronich

Sat. Dec. 10 4:30 pm M. Adams/ J. Adams

Sun. Dec. 11 9:30 am B. Sekelsky/ J. Csom
11:00 am D. Fejes/ M. Coyne

Second Sunday in Advent / Druga Adventna Nedelja
ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Dec. 10 C. & M. Coyne

December 4, 2016
Sat. Dec. 17 A. Prokaly/ P. Stone

From the Pastor:

THE SECOND COLLECTION: this weekend is the Religious Retirement Collection.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: this Thursday, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

IT IS A **HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS**, honoring St. Ann's conceiving the Holy Virgin in her womb. This is NOT to be confused with the "Virgin Birth" which refers to the Virgin Mary's giving birth to the Son of God, Our Lord Jesus Christ, at the event which we celebrate at Christmas.

MASS TIMES FOR THE HOLY DAY ARE:

Wednesday, December 7th - 4:30 Vigil Mass; Thursday, December 8th - 9:00 am Mass; AND, 5:30 pm Mass.

THE SECOND COLLECTION: next weekend will be the usual Monthly Collection.

FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: Monday, December 12th, is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe commemorating the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary-depicted as the Aztec Princess-to Juan Diego in Mexico. As a result of this apparition, human sacrifices came to an end, and Christianity became prevalent throughout Mexico and South America.

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: the CCD REL/ED in conjunction with the Finance Board invite everyone to the coffee hour/pancake breakfast next **Sunday, December 11th** following the 9:30 & 11:00 am Masses, featuring pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, tea, and juices for ONLY \$5.00 per person. Santa Clause will greet the children of the parish.

Additionally, tickets for the Finance Board's Raffle, featuring 3 prizes, will be sold before and after all Masses through December 10/11th, when the Raffle's drawing will take place at the conclusion of the pancake breakfast. Come and join us for breakfast with Santa, family and friends and help support this fundraiser and enjoying our time together.

ADVENT CONFESSIONS: Saturday, December 17th from 3: 45 – 4: 15 pm, and, on Tuesday, December 20th from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

MASS TIMES FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NATIVITY AT CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th - 4:30 Vigil Mass
Midnight Mass at Christmas, Sunday, December 25th – 00:00 Midnight
Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th - 9:30 and 11:00 am Mass.

MASS TIMES FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY- a Holy Day of Obligation to attend Mass:

New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31st – 4:30 Vigil Mass
New Year's Day, Sunday January 1, 2017– 9:30 and 11:00 am Mass.

ADULT CATHOLIC EDUCATION: the next Adult Catechism classes in December will be Sunday, December 18th, during the hours of 9:45 – 10:40. Anyone and everyone who is curious or wants to enhance their understanding of our Holy Faith are welcome.

PARISH ADVENT MISSION: Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Fairfield is pleased to welcome contemporary Catholic Christian Inspirational Speaker and Musician Paul Koleske, who will lead an Advent Mission: *Igniting the Light of Christ Within You* on December 6, 7, and 8th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall. Paul teaches why and how we are already wired to succeed in building ourselves and the church while discovering God's purpose in our lives. He shares practical techniques we can use to increase our connection with the Presence of the Holy Spirit, the Risen Christ's gift to His disciples. A Free-Will offering will be collected each evening. For more information, please visit, PaulKoleske.com. All are welcome to attend.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM: at 1 State Street in New Haven, opens its annual Christmas exhibit November 19. The show features crèches from Germany as well as many from the museum's own collection, including a hand-carved cedar nativity scene from Mexico and its popular 120-square-foot Baroque Neapolitan (Italian) diorama. The Museum is open daily; free admission & parking. For more information, please call at 203-865-0400 or access: www.kofemuseum.org.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Pope Francis has said: "Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth." This is why it is important that we continue to put pressure on our newly elected officials to change the federal health care mandate which forces religious institutions to pay for medical procedures that violate their moral principles.

If you haven't done so already, please voice your opposition to the federal health care mandate by calling U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Sylvia Mathews Burwell at 202-205-5445, and your newly elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

DECEMBER INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS:

Universal Intention: that the scandal of child-soldiers may be eliminated throughout the world. *Intention for Evangelization:* that the peoples of Europe may rediscover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Holy Gospel which gives joy and hope to life. .

Second Sunday in Advent / Druga Adventna Nedelja

THE INFIRM: We pray for the healing & restoration of good health to all our infirm family members, friends, & parishioners in particular:



Alan Bedwell, Patricia Butzko, Dorothy Cassidy, Lori Cellini, Anthony Cilo, Terry D'Amico, Don DeMattia, Larry DiGiacomo, Madeline Doherty, Eileen Donohue, Don Donaldson, Melissa Doran, Carol Ennis, Dorothy Fejes, Mary Galich, Lee Gentile, Joan Gerdson, Anna Grotti, Linda Grzegowski, Frank Hering, Colleen Horan, Peter John, Kathleen Johnson, Maureen Kelly, Ron & Alma Knight, David Koprivec, Mary Ann Koprivec, Margaret Kuharec, Pat Lenahan, Madalene Lennon, Gabriel Loeser, Anton Lukman, Lillian Makar, Patty Merola, Jackie Mitchell, Jim Motley, Gregory Parsley, Ilona Paul, Bernard Peloquin, Elizabeth Petrushonis, Lucille Piccirillo, Verlene Pickstone, Rev. Louis Pintye, OFM, Justina Pšeničnik, Edward & Diane Raschke, Stephen Ray, Darlene Raytar, Louis Rednak, Mary Ann Santolupo, Annette & Bernie Senderak, Micheal Sheets, Louise Tatangelo, Jaye Turner, Katherine Vallone, KJ Waller, Frank Us, Ethel Wuennemann & Fay Ann Zak.

We commend to our prayers the souls of all the recently deceased-Joan Meszaros, Andrew Kokorda, and Anne Colon. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the Mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

Please pray for World Peace, for an end to all unrest throughout the world-especially the Middle East, and for the protection of all our soldiers, troops, and Servicemen, may GOD BLESS & PROTECT THEM, from all evil, harm, & injury, and, return them safely home. Amen.

Feast Days in the December:

Sunday, December 4

Advent II

Tuesday, December 6

St. Nicholas, Bishop

Wednesday, December 7

St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

Thursday, December 8

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION:

Immaculate Conception

Friday, December 9

St. Juan Diego Visionary

Saturday,

In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, December 11

Advent III

November 19/20

Regular Collection: \$ 1,357.00

Capitol Collection: \$ 1,048.00

Miscellaneous: \$ 220.00

November 26/27, 2016

Regular Collection: \$ 1,642.00

Christmas Flowers: \$ 874.00

Miscellaneous: \$ 549.00

HOLY ADVENT SEASON

December 4, 2016

ADVENT II



Every year, the holy season of Advent reminds us to prepare spiritually for the coming of Our Lord by a Sacramental Confession, as St. John the Baptist bids us: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight HIS paths."

In the First Reading the holy Prophet Isaiah, proclaims that the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon the Messiah, who will be a Just Judge, and repay each according to their conduct and merit. Isaiah depicts the Kingdom of GOD as a mythical kingdom in which the ferocity of wild animals will be quelled with docility and the fear of gentle ones will be replaced with peace and courage. The disparity of sin will be dissolved by knowledge of the Lord Who will bring peace to any and all on Earth who enter it.

In the Holy Gospel, St. Matthew proffers that St. John the Baptist emerged from the purity of the desert to preach repentance and preparation to the citizens of Jerusalem-a city which had become polluted with the sin of pagan ways. He invites everyone to prepare the way of the Lord in their hearts by "making straight HIS paths."

Effectively, St. John is preaching the need for an examination of conscience and assessment of one's life. Those who heard his words came from the Holy City to confess their sins in the River Jordan; they were "baptized" a symbol of repentance and purification.

A Sacramental Confession of sins is an integral part of Advent-the season of preparing for the Light from Heaven-the Messiah of God, Whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. In truth, we cannot celebrate the birth of Christ if we do not spiritually prepare to receive Him with a clear conscience, a clean heart & our soul free from sin.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem publically confessed their sins to one another and to St. John. We confess our sins in a more personal setting to a duly ordained Priest, who configures Christ Himself. It is Christ the spiritual Healer who absolves our sins through the ministry of the Priest.

One of the hallmarks of a Sacramental Confession is an *Act of Contrition*, for we know that GOD never turns anyone away if he is truly contrite, and seeks HIM.

That is why we pray: "O my GOD, I am heartily sorry for having offended THEE. I detest all my sins because of THY just punishment, but most of all because I offend THEE, my GOD, Who art all good, and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of THY grace, to sin no more, and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen."