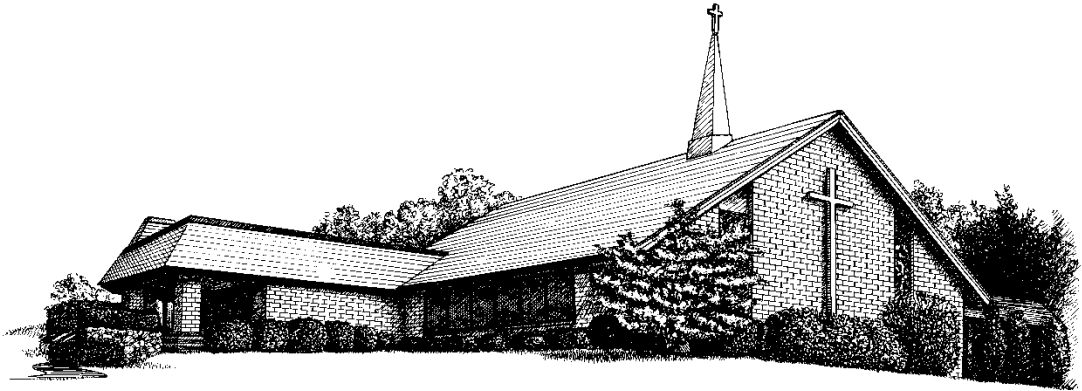


Holy Cross Parish ~ Župnija Svetega Križa



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. 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, Sr. – Anna Gurrieri & Family

Mon. Dec. 12 9:00 am + Speranza Deriu – The Pugliese Family
Tue. Dec. 13 9:00 am Intention of Prevention of War – Justina Pšeničnik
Wed. Dec. 14 9:00 am + Jean Bové – The McGee Family
Thur. Dec. 15 9:00 am + Peter McEntee – The McGee Family

Sat. Dec. 17 4:30 pm + Florence M. DeProfio – Linda DeProfio
Sun. Dec. 18 9:30 am + Anthony Belovich – His Son & Family
11:00 am + Flornce M DeProfio – Linda DeProfio

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

Sat. Dec. 17 4:30 pm P. Stone/ M. Colon
Sun. Dec. 18 9:30 am J. Piczko/ P. Walsh
11:00 am T. Mitchell/ L. Selimović

From the Pastor:

ADVENT: Remember to maintain a spirit of vigil during Advent, as the CHRISTMAS SEASON BEGINS on December 25th, NOT before. Let us give evidence that we are true Christians-true disciples of the Anointed of the Lord, by observing a period of reflection, making Advent a time of repentance, Confession, spiritual renewal in the Holy Spirit of GOD, and a time of return to the Lord anticipating both the birth, and, the return of the Holy Light from Heaven, born to us at the event of Christmas.

The Advent season is an opportune time to review our lives before GOD, make a Sacramental Confession, and heed the words of St. John the Baptist to prepare the way of Our Lord in acting, thinking, and living.

GAUDETE SUNDAY: this weekend we celebrate the Third Sunday in Advent known as *Gaudete* Sunday, the half-way mark of the Advent Season. Up to this Sunday, the Readings foretold the coming of the Messiah and the need to prepare spiritually for Him in our lives by fasting-as symbol of repentance, and by abstaining from indulgence-symbol of purification. From this Sunday to the Vigil of Christmas, the tone of the Mass Readings will reflect the mystery of Our Lord's presence among us.

The color of the vestments on this weekend is changed from Violet to Rose as at one time Advent was a penitential season and this half-way mark of Advent softened the strict practice of fast and abstinence. This theme was also reflected in the *Introit* of the Traditional Mass, which began with "*Gaudete-Rejoice*," for the coming of the Lord is closer.

THE SECOND COLLECTION: this weekend is the usual Monthly Collection.

The SECOND COLLECION: next weekend will be the Capitol Improvement Collection.

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 this morning following the 9:30 & 11:00 am Masses, featuring pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, tea, and juices for ONLY \$5.00 per person. Santa Clause is eager to greet the children of the parish.

This is the last chance to purchase tickets for the Finance Board's Raffle, featuring 3 prizes. The Raffle's drawing will take place at the conclusion of today's pancake breakfast. Come and join us for breakfast with Santa, family and friends and help support this fundraiser and enjoying our time together.

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.

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
Midnight Mass at Christmas, Sunday, December 25th - 00:00 Midnight
Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th - 9:30 and 11:00 am

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
New Year's Day, Sunday January 1, 2017- 9:30 and 11:00 am

ADULT CATHOLIC EDUCATION: the next Adult Catechism class in the month of December will be conducted next 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, and are invited to join us at the 11:00 am Mass.

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.kofcmuseum.org.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Now that the elections are over, we must keep in mind the gift of religious freedom and our duty to defend and exercise it as faithful citizens.

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.

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, John Coletti, 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 Anne Colon, Carol Ennis, Jean Benton, and Alan Chomartany. 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 11

Advent II

Monday, December 12

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 13

St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

Wednesday, December 14

St. John of the Cross, Priest & Mystic

Saturday, December 17

In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, December 18

Advent IV:

December 3 / 4

Regular Collection: \$ 1,722.00

Diocesan: Rel. Retire. \$ 250.00

Miscellaneous: \$ 207.00

ADVENT III



On this Third Sunday in Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, the Church encourages us to rejoice with a sense of spiritual joy and gladness in the midst of this busy and frenetic season of shopping, planning, cooking and baking as we anticipate the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ-the Messiah, at His first coming which we celebrate on the Holy Day of Christmas. At Christmas, we celebrate His birth as man as He assumed human flesh, event which we call "the Incarnation."

Gaudete Sunday also gives us reason to rejoice as we anticipate Our Lord's Second coming as the King of the Universe at the end of the ages and of time-"*That Great and Terrible Day,*" which will be our entrance into Eternal Divine Light.

In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah, continues the vision of the Mythical Kingdom where the Messiah will bring His kingdom where there will be no harm or ruin on "the Lord's" holy mountain. As His vision continues, Isaiah sees the desert blooms with life and refreshes the parched character of the Earth, as the glory of the Lord shine down upon man. The Lord will heal all mental, moral, psychic, and physical disorders maladies, and on that day great joy will inspire praise and song to the Lord, as he liberates man from the ravages of corruption, sin and death.

Hence, the Church join Isaiah in exhorting us to rejoice and sing out, because not only has the Lord GOD removed from Jerusalem HIS judgment against her-who sinned against Him, but now HE walks in our midst who is a Mighty Saviour, and will renew us in HIS love and mercy.

In the Holy Gospel, St. Matthew proffers that St. John the Baptist is the "messenger of the Lord," who manifests the Messiah, and confirms that Our Lord Jesus Christ is indeed the fulfillment of the vision of Isaiah and the Word of GOD to comfort, heal, and rescue those bound by the affliction of the Devil.

Effectively, St. John the Baptist is telling us to follow the *Corporal Works of Mercy* which are defined by Our Lord Himself-MT: 31-46:

Feed the Hungry;

Give Drink to the Thirsty;

Clothe the Naked;

Shelter the Homeless;

Care for the Sick;

Visit the Imprisoned; and

Third Sunday in Advent / Tretja Adventna Nedelja
Bury the Dead.

December 11, 2016