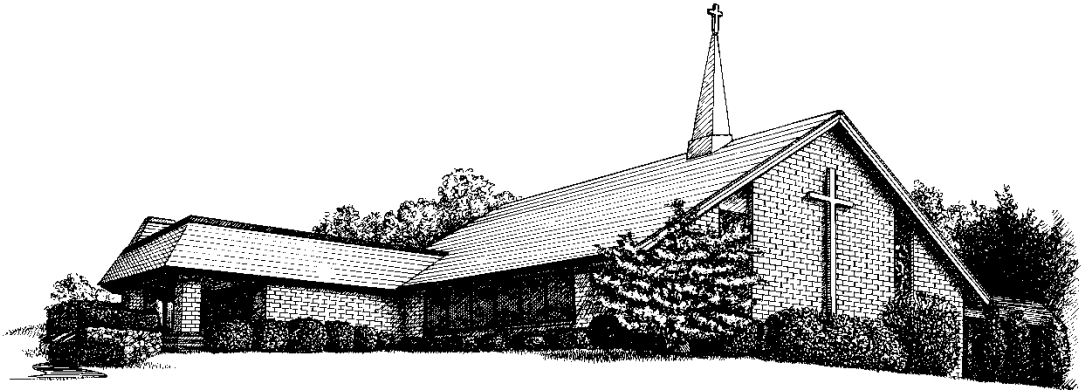


Holy Cross Parish ~ Župnija Svetega Križa



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. 17 4:30 pm + Florence M. DeProfio – Linda DeProfio
Sun. Dec. 18 9:30 am + Anthony Belovich – His Son & Family
11:00 am + Florence M. DeProfio – Linda DeProfio
Mon. Dec. 19 9:00 am Intention of Prevention of War – Justina Pšeničnik
Tue. Dec. 20 9:00 am + Catherine Bonvicini – Jim & Diane Caserta
Wed. Dec. 21 9:00 am + Kathleen Greene – The McGee Family
Thur. Dec. 22 9:00 am + Janes Hribšek- A Friend (8th Anniversary)
Sat. Dec. 24 4:30 pm + James T. Kranyik – His Daughter, Patricia Butzko
00:00 Midnight Pro Populo
Sun. Dec. 25 9:30 am + Narcisa Pecchiari – Her Nephew & Niece
11:00 am + Eugenia Pečarič – Her Children

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

Sat. Dec. 24 4:30 pm D. Fejes & J. Piczko/ T. Mitchell
00:00 Midnight J. Adams/ J. Adams
Sun. Dec. 25 9:30 am P. & W. Sullivan/ J. Csom
11:00 am T. Mitchell & Volunteer Needed /P. Walsh

Fourth Sunday in Advent / Četrta Adventna Nedelja
ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Dec. 24 Volunteers Needed

December 18, 2016
Sat. Dec. 31 M. Colon/ T. Sekelsky

From the Pastor:

ADVENT: we are in the Holy Season of Advent, as the CHRISTMAS SEASON BEGINS in only 2 weeks on December 25th and 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 reflection, 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 to heed the words of St. John the Baptist: "prepare the way of Our Lord" in acting, thinking, and living.

FLUE SEASON: as we are now back in the season ripe for colds, coughs and respiratory illness, etc., it is advisable in an effort to avoid contagion, that at the "Sign of Peace" during Mass, not to exchange handshakes but rather just to verbally wish someone the Peace of Christ with a slight bow or smile. Remember to wash your hands often, esp., when you return home from having been out shopping, and dress warmly-covering up the chest and throat area: no one wants a fever!

THE SECOND COLLECTION: this weekend is the Capitol Improvement Collection.

THE SECOND COLLECION: next weekend will be the Christmas Gift Collection.

THANK YOU: to the Members of the Finance Board and the CCD/REL Ed students and all their helpers for their collaboration at the pancake breakfast last Sunday which was a marvelous success. A very special thanks to "Santa Claus" for his visit. THANK YOU to everyone who came to support the event. We look forward to the next one next year in 2017. Altogether, the Pancake Breakfast and Raffle grossed \$1,572.00- expenses of \$252.00, the Breakfast netted: \$1,320.00

BLESSED OPLATKI: for those who honor the Slavic Tradition of the Christmas Eve meatless dinner, the *Oplatki* are available on the table at the back of the Church at no charge; donations will be gladly accepted ☺

ADVENT CONFESSIONS:

*Saturday, December 17th from 3: 45 – 4: 15 pm, and,
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:

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

RETROUVILLE OF CONNECTICUT: is sponsoring their next retreat weekend on January 20 – 22, 2017. For marriages which have lost their spark or have become troubled and stressed, or are considering divorce or separation, *Retrouville* may be able to help. Although *Retrouville* is Catholic in origin, couples from all or no Faith Traditions are welcome to attend. Please call 1.800. 470. 2230 for information or registration, access www.helpourmarriage.com.

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: let us pray that the new Administration, when revising the Health and Human Services health care mandate, reinstates the Church's inalienable right to exercise its First Amendment right to freedom of religion.

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, 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, 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 Carol Ennis, Jean Benton, Alan Chomartany, and Cecilia Coleman. 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 18:
Fourth Sunday in Advent
- Wednesday, December 21
St. Peter Canisius, Priest and Doctor
- Friday, December 23
St. John of Kanty, Priest
- Saturday, December 24
Vigil of the Holy Nativity of Our Lord
- Sunday, December 25
Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord & Saviour

ADVENT IV



During this final week in Advent, the Readings at Mass focus on the sacred mysteries surrounding Our Lord's obscure birth, beginning with the apparition of the Angel Gabriel to Our Lady. Although very little is known of the early life of Mary, extra-biblical literature reveals her parents were elderly, holy, and childless-Joachim and Anna. Joachim is reputed to have been a wealthy man who donated one third of his income to the poor; one third to the Temple; and subsisted on the remaining third. After years of entreating the Lord for a child, when she finally conceived, Anna vows to dedicate her child to God.

After mystical events occurred, the High Priest understood that young child at 3 years of age, had been singularly selected by God, so she was reared in the Temple precincts, under the instruction of the Torah.

The Prophet Micah, a contemporary of the Prophet Isaiah-living 8 centuries before Christ-uttered the first prophecy of God healing his people. He speaks to frustrated people living in social corruption that the glory of the Lord would restore Zion. He foretells that a prince of David's house will rule over a reunited Israel:

"In days to come, the mount of the Lord's house shall be established higher than the mountains; it shall rise high above the hills, and peoples shall stream to it: many nations shall come and say 'Come, let us climb the mount of the Lord, to the house of God of Jacob, that He may instruct us in His ways, that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.'"

The obscure Prophet Micah also utters the first prophecy regarding the Messiah, and His origins:

"But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, for from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel."

Early Christianity recognized in this prophecy the reference to Our Lady as the beginning of our redemption. As he greeted her: "Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you, and blessed are you among women," he reveals that Divine favor is with her already. Furthermore, her response to the Angel: "**Let it be done to me according to your word,**" shows total desire to collaborate with God, despite her unknowing but yet determined will to what HE

December 7/8

Immaculate Conception: \$ 522.00

December 10 / 11

Regular Collection: \$ 1,942.00

Monthly Collection: \$ 828.00

Miscellaneous: \$ 504.00

Fourth Sunday in Advent / Četrta Adventna Nedelja
would ask of her. Hence the prophecy of Micah comes to
fulfillment, in the Mystery of Our Lord's birth.

December 18, 2016