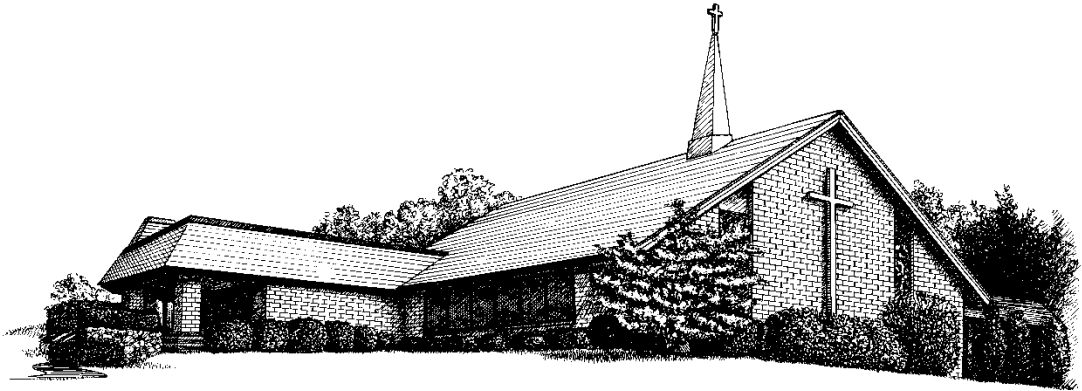


# Holy Cross Parish ~ Župnija Svetega Križa



## 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. Jan. 07 4:30 pm + *Living & Deceased Members of the Koprivec & Haray Families – The Koprivec & Haray Families*  
Sun. Jan. 08 9:30 am + *Eugenia Pečarič – Her Children*  
11:00 am + *Anthony Belovich – His Son Anthony Belovich & Family*  
Mon. Jan. 09 9:00 am + *Rev. Stanko Hribšek – His Sister, Justina Pšeničnik*  
Tue. Jan. 10 9:00 am *Intention of Prevention of War – Justina Pšeničnik*  
Wed. Jan. 11 9:00 am + *Ann Piretti – Peter & Kathleen Allen & Family*  
Thur. Jan. 12 9:00 am + *Intention of Prevention of War – Justina Pšeničnik*

Sat. Jan. 14 4:30 pm + *Frank DiGiacomo – A Friend*  
Sun. Jan. 15 9:30 am + *Daniel Sileo – Ed & Michele Colon*  
11:00 am + *Zdravko (Valentin) Hribar - Marija Grašič*

Sat. Jan. 07 4:30 pm J. Adams/ J. Adams  
Sun. Jan. 08 9:30 am J. Piczko/ J. Csom  
11:00 am B. Sekelsky/ L. Selimović

Sat. Jan. 14 4:30 pm P. Stone/ M. Coyne  
Sun. Jan. 15 9:30 am T. Mitchell/ T. Mitchell  
11:00 am P. Sullivan/ W. Sullivan

ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Jan 21 Nida Conklin

Sat. Jan. 28 Volunteers Needed

HAPPY NEW YEAR

+20+B+G+M+17+

SREČNO NOVO LETO



**THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY:** traditionally celebrated in the Western Church on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January is now celebrated on the Sunday nearest January 6<sup>th</sup>. Although a Holy Day of Obligation for the Universal Church, it had fallen into disuse in the United States, therefore, by dispensation, the obligation was abrogated, and the Liturgical celebration was moved to Sunday.

“Epiphany” in the Western Church refers to the manifestation of the First Advent of the Messiah through His Incarnation as the Evangelist St. Luke recounts: “There were shepherds in the region, living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flocks. The Angel of the Lord appeared to them as the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were very much afraid. The Angel said to them: “You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you—tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day in David’s city a Saviour has been born to you, the Messiah and Lord. Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes.” Suddenly, there was with the Angel a multitude of the Heavenly Hosts, praising GOD and saying: ‘Glory to GOD in High Heaven, Peace on Earth to men on whom HIS favor rests.’” LK II: 8-14.

This manifestation of the Holy Child as the King of Kings was further realized by the Magi, when they presented the Christ Child with gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh, MT II: 1 – 11. Both of these are grouped together as one.

The second Epiphany of Our Lord, Jesus—the Messiah—was realized through the testimony of the Father (and the descent of the Holy Spirit) at Christ’s Baptism in the Jordan, cf., LK III: 21 – 22; JN I: 29 - 34. The Eastern Church celebrates the Baptism of Our Lord in the Jordan on the Feast of the Epiphany, at which time the waters are blessed.

The third Epiphany by the Church, both East and West, celebrate Epiphany at the Wedding Feast at Cana, where Our Lord made the water into wine—which is enumerated as His first of many public miracles, cf., JN II: 1 - 11.

Paul the Apostle, in his Second Epistle to Timothy reminds him and the Church Community: “God has saved us and has called us to a holy life, not because of any merit of ours but according to HIS own design—the grace held out to us in Christ Jesus before the world began, now made manifest through the appearance of Our Saviour.” II Tm I: 90 – 10.

**THANK YOU:** to everyone who helped decorate the Church both inside & outside for the Christmas & New Year’s Holy Days.

**THE SECOND COLLECTION:** this weekend is the usual Monthly Collection; next weekend will be the Capitol Improvement.

**THE COFFEE HOUR:** the members of the Parish Advisory Board invite everyone to the parish hall after Mass next Sunday am for coffee and...the Parish Nurses will be conducting the blood pressure screening.

**CCD REL/ED CLASSES:** resume tomorrow, Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at the usual times between 5:30- and 6:30 pm barring inclement weather. Please stay tuned to your local news channels for school closings and delays. The CCD class schedule follows the Fairfield Public School Schedule.

**ADULT CATHOLIC EDUCATION:** the next class will be conducted on Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> between the hours of 9:45 – 10:40 . Anyone and everyone wishing to enhance their understanding of our Holy Faith are welcome, and are invited to join us at the 11:00 am Mass following class. The topic of study will be the 10 Commandments.

**DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:** the passage of the *Federal Health Care Mandate* was supposed to provide affordable health care to all Americans. By many accounts, this is not the case, and in the process our First of Amendment Right, which is supposed to safeguard our religious freedom has been taken away.

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 elected representatives. Let them know that the mandate is in violation of our First Amendment right to religious freedom.

**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, 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, Iona Paul, Bernard Peloquin, Elizabeth Petrushonis, Lucille Piccirillo, Verlone 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. 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 January:*

Sunday, January 8, 2017:

Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord

Monday, January 9

Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord-celebrated

Thursday, January 12

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Religious

Friday, January 13

Feast of the Epiphany-Traditional Calendar

St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor

Saturday, January 14

In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*December 31, 2-16/ January 1, 2017*

*Regular Collection: \$ 1,710.00*

*New Year's Collection: \$ 656.00*

*Miscellaneous: \$ 524.00*

*Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord*



“*Epiphany*” is Greek for ‘manifestation’ or ‘revelation,’ referring to Our Lord’s divine nature though He was in the form of man. There are 3 Liturgical feasts which celebrate this manifestation: the *Adoration of the Magi*-January 6th; the *Baptism of Our Lord*-the following Sunday; and, the *Wedding Feast at Cana*- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, all of which through the power of God, show forth the Light of Our Lord, Jesus, as the Messiah.

The first feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6<sup>th</sup> commemorating the visitation of 3 Kings, Magi, or Astrologers who came from the East, to Jerusalem in search of the New Born King of the Jews. In their quest, they besought an audience with King Herod, inquiring of him the whereabouts of the New Born King. Enraged that the Magi had not come to see him, Herod craftily directed them to seek out the Child, then return to inform him so that he might go to worship the Newborn as well. The Magi followed a star, and found the Child with Him mother. They did Him homage, and offered Him gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

This feast of Epiphany is known in the Eastern Church as the Feast of the *Theophany*, as it celebrates the revelation of Our Lord Jesus Christ at His Baptism as the Son of God. After Our Lord was baptized and emerged out of the water, the skies opened and the Voice of the Father was heard to say: “Behold, My Beloved Son, listen to what He tells you,” as the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove. At this event the Holy Trinity was revealed for the first time, hence the title *Theophany*-the manifestation or revelation of GOD-the Holy Trinity.

The last of the 3 manifestations of Our Lord’s divine nature occurred at the Wedding Feast of Cana, where after having been informed by His mother that the host had run out of wine, Our Lord instructed the waiters to fill jars with water, and take it to the head waiter. Having tasted the wine, the head waiter complemented the groom for having saved the best for last. This was the first of many miracles Our Lord performed to show the Kingdom of God upon us.

Hence, we see the Epiphany of Our Lord, not as a single event, but as a continuation of His Divine Nature manifested or revealed through sacred events. We as the Church celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord every time we attend Mass when we pray the GLORIA as did the Angels.