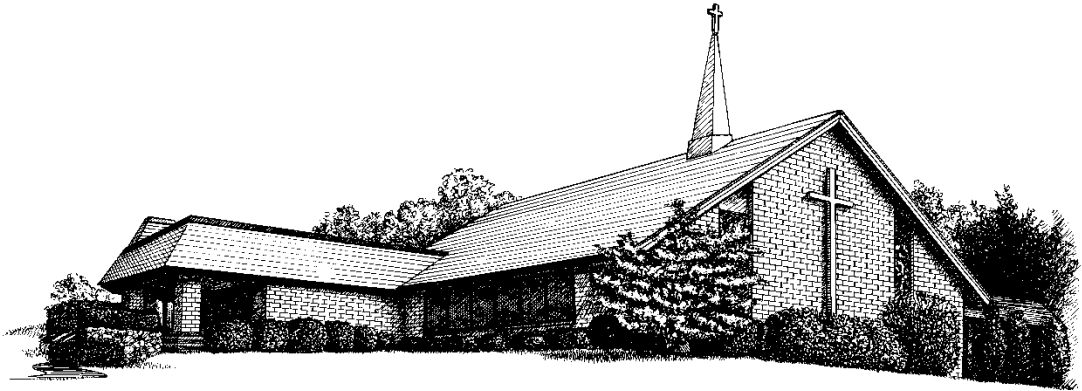


Holy Cross Parish ~ Župnija Svetega Križa



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. Feb. 11 4:30 pm + John Ray – His Wife, Monika Ray
Sun. Feb. 12 9:30 am + Zdravko Hribar – Max Us
11:00 am + Ignac Igor Grašič- Lea Belovich
Mon. Feb. 13 9:00 am + Anne Colon – Walter & Patty Sullivan
Tue. Feb. 14 9:00 am + Joan Meszaros – Mr. & Mrs. Zoltan Kassay
Wed. Feb. 15 9:00 am Intention of the Mencil Family – Marie Csom
Thur. Feb. 16 9:00 am + Fred Paige – Mr. & Mrs. John DeCaro

Sat. Feb. 18 4:30 pm Intention of John M. DiGiacomo – A Friend
Sun. Feb. 19 9:30 am + Michael Alcaraz – Glenn & Carol Mackno
11:00 am + Philip J. DeProfio – Linda DeProfio

Sat. Feb. 11 4:30 pm D. Fejes/ W. Sullivan
Sun. Feb. 12 9:30 am J. Piczko/ J. Csom
11:00 am M. E. Vollemans/ L. Selimović

Sat. Feb. 18 4:30 pm P. Stone/ M. Colon
Sun. Feb. 19 9:30 am B. Sekelsky/ P. Walsh
11:00 am D. Fejes/ S. Cassone

FROM THE PASTOR:

CCD/REL ED: as we follow the Fairfield Public School System, please stay tuned to the local channels for cancellations due to inclement weather.

ADULT CATHOLIC EDUCATION: the next class will be conducted on Sunday, February 26th between the hours of 9:45 – 10:40 am. 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 SECOND COLLECTION: this weekend is the usual *Monthly Collection*.

THE SECOND COLLECTION: next weekend will be the *Capitol Improvement Collection*.

COFFEE HOUR: the Finance Board invites everyone to the parish hall next Sunday morning following both Masses for the monthly Coffee Hour...the parish nurses will be conducting blood pressure screening. Please join us in the hall for conviviality, coffee and...

DUAL FEASTS: on this Tuesday, February 14th we celebrate the feast day of 3 major Saints: Saint Cyril, a Monk, and his brother-Saint Methodius, Bishop, both of whom are credited for the “*Baptism of the Slavs*.” The brothers Cyril and Methodius were Greek speaking born to a noble family from a Greek father and a Macedonian mother who spoke Old Slavonic. Being highly educated and gifted in *Glossalia*-the ability to speak many languages, they traveled north to Moravia, what is now Ukraine and Russia, where they baptized thousands of pagans at the Dniپر River. As those areas had no written script, St. Cyril devised what is known as the *Glagoличic* Alphabet also known as the *Cyril Script*, based on the Greek Alphabet but accommodating local sounds not known in Greek. The *Glagoличic* Alphabet continues to be the script used in Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Georgia, Macedonia, and the Southern Balkans.

The 3rd major Saint celebrated on this day is the very familiar St. Valentine, after whom the custom of exchanging love card, letter and notes is practiced. See the expose` on the next page.

MASS FOR THE INFIRM: the Knights of the Order Malta invite everyone to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes this afternoon, February 12th, at Blessed Sacrament Church, Union Avenue, in Bridgeport; welcome begins at 2:30 pm; Holy Mass begins at 3:00 pm. All who are ill, the frail and the handicapped are invited for prayers and for the imparting of the *Sacrament of the Sick*, followed by refreshments.

THANK YOU: to everyone who has been contributing to the *CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND COLLECTION*. As a result of your past generosity to the parish, we have been able to make significant single time much needed improvements to the Church edifice and to the parish hall. The next major repair project we are facing, and for which we are saving up, is the repaving of the Church parking lot which is in dire need. Patched jobs and filling in the gaps are no longer an option. Hopefully, we will be able to complete this project by the end of the summer. The work will entail ripping up the existing asphalt, milling the ground and eliminating major uneven surfaces, and repaving and restriping the new surface.

BIRTHRIGHT: is an emergency pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. Our guiding principle: it is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born. Birthright has served in Connecticut since 1972 and has ten locations. We help any pregnant girl or woman who calls us with friendship counseling, and with clerical and clothing work. There are 10 locations in CT.

Birthright is currently in need of volunteers. If you would like to help, please call 1. 800. 550. 4900 for the Birthright nearest you. Training is provided.

BULLETIN SPONSORS: please know that the parish bulletin is printed without cost to the parish, as it is financed by the advertising of our sponsors. If you are considering a home project or are in need of professional services, please consult the back page of the parish bulletin and support the vendors who pay for our bulletin, and let them know you saw their ad in the parish bulletin and that you appreciate their support of the parish.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Pope Francis has said: “Religion [cannot] be relegated to the inner sanctum of personal life, without influence on societal and national life (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 183). As our leaders work to alter the health care mandate, may they keep the common good of all Americans in the forefront of their minds.

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.

FEBRUARY INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: Universal Intention: Comfort for the Afflicted. That all those people who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized may find Communities who will welcome and comfort them.

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, Rhoda Harap, 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, James Norris, Gregory Parsley, Ilona Paul, Bernard Peloquin, Elizabeth Petrushonis, Lucille Piccirillo, 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 FEBRUARY:

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday, February 14

Ss. Cyril, Monk; Methodius, Bishop;
St. Valentine

Friday, February 17

Seven Holy Founders of the *Servite Order*

Saturday, February 18

In Honor of Our Lady

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

**VALENTINE'S DAY
FEBRUARY 14**



According to the *Martyriologon*, three early Christian men are known by the same name of *Valentinus*: a Priest in Rome; a Bishop in Terni; and, a third about which little is known. All three are known to have been exiled to & met their end in Africa.

It is believed that the St. Valentinus, commonly now known as St. Valentine, whose feast is associated with February 14, is the Priest in Rome living 240 - 275 AD, who incurred the disfavor if not the ire of Emperor Claudius II.

Accordingly, at the time the golden age of *Pax Romana*-the *Roman Peace*-was coming to an end, the Roman Empire was faced with crises of poor education, increased taxes, decline in world trade, and invasions from the Gauls, Slavs, Huns, Turks and Mongolians-peoples from all over Northern Europe and Asia. With a weakened army, and short of good political and military Administrators, the Empire was plagued with continual civil disruption.

In an effort to strengthen the military with aggressive virile youth dedicated to the Empire, Emperor Claudius II banned marriage for all young men, believing that marriage made men weak, because they became emotionally attached to their wives and families, and thus would not make good and dedicated soldiers. Hence, he issued an Edict banning marriage so as to reconstitute a strong dedicated Imperial Roman Army.

Valentinus recognized the plight of the Decree and the trauma for many young lovers. He therefore began the practice of marrying them in secret places. Once found out, Claudius had him arrested. While in prison, his jailor-*Asterius*-came to know of his healing power and implored him to restore the sight of his blind daughter, which the Saint did. Consequently, a strong form of friendship was forged between the daughter and Valentine. Just prior to his execution, Valentine wrote a farewell letter to her, and signed it: "*From Your Valentine.*" He was martyred for refusing to renounce Christianity, and is believed to have been executed on February 14th, in the year 270 in Roman Africa.

February 4/5, 2017

Regular Collection: \$1,595.00

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time/ Šesta Nedelja med Letom

February 12, 2017

His letter and example inspired the custom of sending letters of love by young Roman men to their ladies. In more recent time, this has become the common practice of sending out Valentine Day Cards to persons of romantic interest: boy/girlfriends, husbands/wives, lovers, friends, and/or acquaintances.

HAPPY ST. VALENTINE'S DAY