



## 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

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 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



### MASS INTENTIONS

### MAŠNI NAMENI

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  
Mon. Feb. 20 9:00 am + Howard Sandie – Robert & Nancy McGee  
Tue. Feb. 21 9:00 am + Wendell Lee Graybeal – A Friend  
Wed. Feb. 22 9:00 am + Philip J. DeProfio – Linda DeProfio  
Thur. Feb. 23 9:00 am + Josef Bukovec – Mr. & Mrs. Bernhardt Schindler

Sat. Feb. 25 4:30 pm + Andrew Kokorda – CCD Catechists  
Sun. Feb. 26 9:30 am + Rocco Pugliese – Lea Belovich  
11:00 am + Deceased members of the Us Family – Max Us

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  
ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Mar. 04 C. & N. Conklin

Sat. Feb. 25 4:30 pm J. Adams/ J. Adams  
Sun. Feb. 26 9:30 am B. Sekelsky/ M. Colon  
11:00 am M. E. Vollemans/ D. Paronich  
Sat. Mar. 11 C. & M. Coyne

**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.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER:** in the event of inclement weather: winter storms/snow and ice, please stay home and be safe, as was the case this past weekend. Please know that we greatly appreciate if you are able to make up the financial offerings the following week, as bills for snowplowing do mount up. Thank you for your continued support.

**ADULT CATHOLIC EDUCATION:** the next class will be conducted next Sunday, February 26<sup>th</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.

**COFFEE HOUR:** the Finance Board invites everyone to the parish hall this 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...

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

**THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT:** begins in 2 weeks on Ash Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup>. Blessed Ashes will be conferred during the usual 9:00 am Mass, and, at the 5:30 pm Mass.

Ash Wednesdays begins the holy season of Lent when we honor the 40 day fast of Our Lord, Jesus Christ in the desert of Judea, after which HE resisted the temptations of the Evil One. Hence, Lent is the 40 day period of time when we face our own temptations and resist the whims of the Evil One who seeks our separation and the destruction of our souls. That is why Holy Mother the Church advocates our own fast and abstinence so that we might detach from the distractions of the world, and may grow stronger in our understanding, our conviction, and in our love of Our Lord, and HIS holy Church.

This year the theme of Lent will be: *Lift up your hearts to the Lord*.

**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.

**CAMP VERITAS 2017:** *Camp Veritas* is a one-week play-and-pray sleep summer camp for teens going into 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades. It will be held at three USA locations in 2017: 1) July 16-0 22 at Mount St. Mary College in Newburgh, NY; 2) July 23 – 29 at Summit Lake Camp in Emmitsburg, MD; and, 3) August 13 – 19 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY. Enrollment is open; the enrollment price for each week is \$450 per camper. Early bird rates (if paid in full by April 1) are \$400 for all sites. There is no additional charge for the dance and basketball program options (at Mount St Mary College only). Volunteers (must be over 18 years old) are needed and free! More details can be found at: [www.campveritas.com](http://www.campveritas.com).

**DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM:** the Catholic Church invests in the *Common Good*. It runs and operates schools, hospitals, universities, charities and social services. Our government and society have long relied on them for help and taken advantage of the vast network that churches and religious institutions provide to aid people in need and to help form good citizens. But, when we are told we've got to stop being who we are, to put aside our beliefs, or plainly go against our conscience in order to be allowed to contribute to the common good, we must speak out.

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.

**INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: Universal Intention:** Comfort for the Afflicted. That all those people who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, might 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 Horris, 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 19, 2017  
Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday, February 21  
St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor
- Wednesday, February 22  
Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
- Thursday, February 23  
St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
- Saturday, February 25  
In Honor of Our Lady
- Sunday, February 26, 2017  
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*St. Polycarp  
February 23*



St. Polycarp [Πολύκαρπος, *Polýkarpos*] meaning ‘very fruitful,’ a Syrian, born in 69 AD was consecrated Bishop of Smyrna, Turkey during the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. According to Church historians, Irenaeus and Tertullian, Polycarp had been a disciple of St. John the Apostle, who converted him to the Holy Christian Faith, and subsequently ordained him Priest and Bishop of Smyrna. He had conversations with many people who had seen, heard, and witnessed Jesus Christ. He is known as 1 of 3 “Apostolic Fathers,” due to direct affinity to the Holy Apostles of Our Lord.

Irenaeus wrote to Florinus: “*I could tell you the place where the blessed Polycarp sat to preach the Word of God. It is yet present to my mind with what gravity he everywhere came in and went out; what was the sanctity of his deportment, the majesty of his countenance; and what were his holy exhortations to the people. I seem to hear him now relate how he conversed with John and many others who had seen Jesus Christ, the words he had heard from their mouths.*”

Hence, it is believed that St. John converted him to Christianity as a very young man or even a boy, and that He professed Christ for 86 years.

St. Polycarp visited Pope Anicetus, Bishop of Rome, during 150 – 160 AD, to discuss issues, especially, the celebration of Easter, which Polycarp insisted on the 14<sup>th</sup> of the Hebrew month of Nisan the original day of the Resurrection of Our Lord from the Dead, while Pope Anicetus prevailed with the Western Church’s custom of celebrating Easter on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after the first full moon following the *Invernal Equinox* (March 21).

According to the *Martyrdom of Polycarp*, the Saint’s death is Saturday, February 23, 156, A.D. He is recorded as having said: “Eighty and six years I have served HIM, and HE has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King and Saviour? You threaten me with a fire that burns for a season, and after a little while is quenched; but you are ignorant of the fire of everlasting punishment that is prepared for the wicked.”

St. Polycarp was burned at the stake, however, when the flames refuse to touch his body, he was pierced with a lance/spear for refusing to burn incense to the Roman Emperor. On his farewell, he said: “I bless you Father for judging me worthy of this hour, so that in the company of the Holy Martyrs I may share the Chalice of Christ.”

*February 11/12, 2017*

<i>Regular Collection:</i>	<i>\$ 882.00</i>
<i>Monthly Collection:</i>	<i>\$ 602.00</i>
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>	<i>\$ 180.00</i>