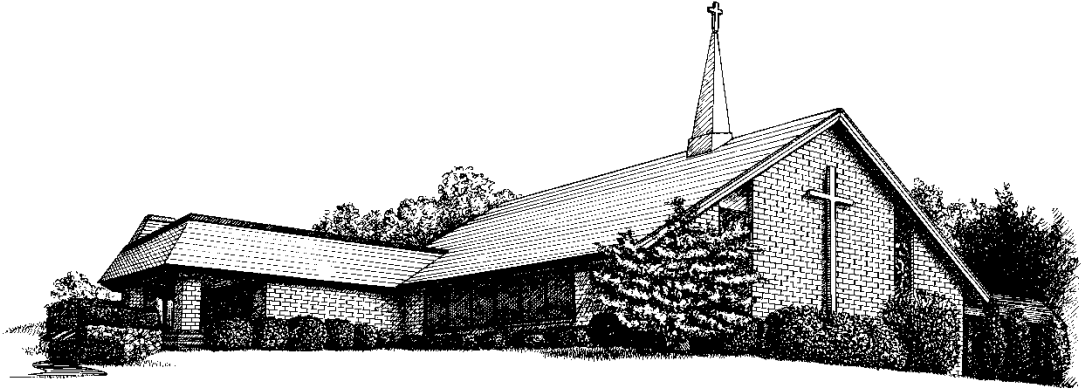


First Sunday in Lent/ Prva Postna Nedelja

March 5, 2017

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. Mar. 04 4:30 pm + *Louis Koprivec – His Wife, Mary Ann and Family*
Sun. Mar. 05 9:30 am + *Elisabeth Roth – Mr. & Mrs. Bernhardt Schindler*
11:00 am + *Ann Tedesco – The Tedesco Family*
Mon. Mar. 06 9:00 am + *Prevention of Terrorism – Justina Pšeničnik*
Tue. Mar. 07 9:00 am + *Prevention of Terrorism – Justina Pšeničnik*
Wed. Mar. 08 9:00 am + *Prevention of Terrorism – Justina Pšeničnik*
Thur. Mar. 09 9:00 am + *Prevention of Terrorism – Justina Pšeničnik*

Sat. Mar. 11 4:30 pm + *Andrew Kokorda – The Flasko Family*
Sun. Mar. 12 9:30 am + *Ted Kitz – Mr. & Mrs. Bernhardt Schindler*
11:00 am + *Darinka Lang – The Grašič Family*

Sat. Mar. 04 4:30 pm J. Adams/ J. Adams
Sun. Mar. 05 9:30 am J. Piczko/ J. Csom
11:00 am B. Sekelsky/ S. Cassone

Sat. Mar. 11 4:30 pm D. Fejes/ M. Coyne
Sun. Mar. 12 9:30 am P. Stone/ B. Sekelsky
11:00 am M. Adams/ L. Selimović

ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Mar. 18 M. Csom

Sat. Mar. 25 M. Colon/ T. Sekelsky

FROM THE PASTOR:

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIMES BEGINS: next Sunday, March 12th at 2:00 am. Remember to set your clocks AHEAD one hour before retiring for the evening on Saturday night or you will be one hour too late for Holy Mass and the rest of the day. So remember to SPRING forward one hour; we Fall back one hour in the Autum.

ADULT CATHOLIC EDUCATION: the next classes will be conducted on March 12th and 26th 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 theme will conclude the Decalogue-the Ten Commandments.

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT: during this 40 day solemn Season of Lent, we are encouraged to reflect on Our Lord's 40 day fast in the wilderness of Judea at the end of which Satan tempted Him 3 times (that we know of) , for the Holy Scripture adds that Satan left Him to await another opportunity. We reflect on Christ's temptations for our own personal purification & renewal of our Faith.

In keeping with Sacred Tradition, we hear the voice of the Prophets who exhort us to recognize our sins and to repent of them through acts of almsgiving, charity, fasting and penance.

The theme for Lent this year will be: *Lift up your hearts to the Lord.*

Loaves and Fishes envelopes to help feed the poor will be available in a basket throughout these 40 days of fast and abstinence.

***** FRIDAYS DURING LENT AND ESP., GOOD FRIDAY ARE SOLEMN DAYS OF FAST & ABSTINENCE*****

ABSTINENCE: ALL Catholics are bound & required to abstain from ALL meat & poultry products on Fridays during Lent, and of course on Good Friday.

FASTING: All Catholic 14 – 59 years of age are bound to fast barring the ill. Fasting refers to the consuming of only one normal full meal & 2 small meals which are MEATLESS. Together, these 2 meals should not equal one full meal. Water, liquid medicines, and pill form medicines are ALWAYS permitted; expectant & nursing mothers may be exempted.

FRIDAYS: during the season of Lent are days of abstinence from all meat products and luxuriant indulgence. Remember that Our Lord Jesus Christ died on a Friday. Early Christians resonated the proclamation of St. John the Baptist who decreed that Jesus Christ is "*The Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,*" and therefore no further blood should be shed nor any meat consumed as a sign of our mourning, penance, and spiritual discipline. Recall also that every Wednesday during Lent recalls "*Spy Wednesday*" when Our Saviour was betrayed by one of His own Apostles– Judas Iscariot. Accordingly, on this day we commemorate & lament the arrangement of the betrayal of Our Lord.

*****LENTEN DEVOTIONS*****

LENTEN CONFESSIONS: will be heard every Tuesday evening during Lent from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

STATION OF THE CROSS: will be conducted every Friday evening at 7:00 pm, followed by Benediction.

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH: is hosting Frank Runyeon who will present 2 short productions on "*The Sermon on the Mount*" and "*Hollywood vs. Faith*" on Thursday, March 16th 7:00 PM. Frank Runyeon is a veteran of over 1,000 television shows, including appearances on *LA Law*, *General Hospital*, and *All My Children*. He will be presenting an evening which will inspire you and also shed new light and laughter on the media today. Turn off your TV, computer or smart-phone and bring your kids or your parents for an evening. You'll be glad you did! Free admission, but free will offering gratefully accepted.

CAMP VERITAS 2017: *Camp Veritas* is a one-week play-and-pray sleep summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th 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.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: Religious Freedom in America has suffered years of unprecedented erosion. Let us pray that President Trump and his administration can restore the federal government's respect for religious freedom of individuals, companies and organizations.

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.

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MARCH INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: that Persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help of the Faithful of the entire Church.

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, Paul Lytwyn,

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 MARCH:

Sunday, March 5,
First Sunday in Lent
Tuesday, March 7
Ss. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs
Wednesday, March 8
St. John of GOD, Religious
Thursday, March 9
St. Frances of Rome, Religious
Saturday, March 11
In Honor of Our Lady
Sunday, March 12
Second Sunday in Lent

Miscellaneous: \$ 656.00

LENT

In the English language "*Lent*" is taken from the Anglo-Saxon "*lencten*" meaning spring-or *first season*, and refers to the time in which the Paschal season occurs.

The annual observance of Holy Season of Lent is a sacred Liturgical and spiritual period of forty days of fast and penance preceding, and preparing for, the glorious feast of the Resurrection celebrated at Easter.

These 40 days excludes Sundays, which is why Lent begins with Ash Wednesday to make up 40 days: 6 weeks of Lent times 7 days equals 42 days, minus 6 Sundays renders 36 days, necessitating the addition of 4 days to make 40 days, hence Ash Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday were added resulting in 40 days.

In determining the period of forty days, the example of Moses and Elijah (both of whom appeared with Christ at HIS Transfiguration) and of Our Lord Jesus Christ was the pattern which the early Church Fathers set as a paradigm for the Faithful to follow. We especially attune ourselves to Our Lord's 40 day fast in the wilderness of Judea, at the end of which Satan tempted Christ, Who defeated the Evil One.

During this solemn period the *Gloria* and "*Alleluia*" are omitted from the Mass, because they are more joyful and glorious in tone, as during Lent we are encouraged to concentrate on our Lord's passion and death.

First Sunday in Lent

Lent bears a two-fold theme: repentance of offense and sin; and, of renewal of Baptismal Grace which disposes us to celebrate the Holy Pascal Mystery with joy.

The Readings for the season of Lent fall under two categories. The first category, which spans from Ash Wednesday through Saturday of week 3 are taken from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) with their corresponding instruction from the Old Testament. Their theme is the call to a life of the Gospel conversion by way of beginning anew, of fasting, depth in prayer and almsgiving, mutual forgiveness, and the call to holiness-unity with GOD, and a lifestyle appropriate to that holiness.

The Readings for the second part of Lent are taken from the Holy Gospel according to St. John which present to us the Mystery of Jesus Christ, the Son of GOD, of Whom John says that all who believe in HIM will have Eternal Life. Christ is presented as the healer and Life-giver, as One who gives Life through confrontation with Temptation and Death, and so gathers into one the scattered children of GOD.

Hence there is a transition from the ethical/moral code instructing atonement, penance, and repentance, to the instruction of approaching Christ actually and personally in a state of purity. We move from the emphasis of the

February 25/26, 2017

Regular Collection: \$ 1,791.00

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**code of discipleship to the Person of Jesus Christ, Son of
GOD, Whom John presents as the Redeemer-the Saviour-
Who will save those who recognize Him and come to Him
unreservedly for Eternal Salvation.**

May you be blessed with a grace-filled Lent!

March 5, 2017