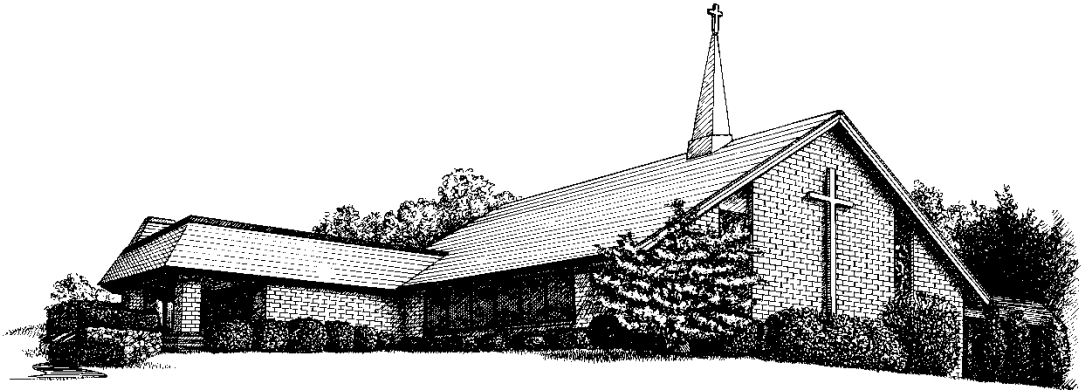


Fourth Sunday in Lent/ Četrta Postna Nedelja

March 26, 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. 25 4:30 pm + Anne Colon – Mike & Rosa Donofrio
Sun. Mar. 26 9:30 am + Eugenia Pečarič – Her Children
11:00 am + Anton & Leopoldine Belovich – The Grašič Family
Mon. Mar. 27 9:00 am Prevention of Terrorism – Justina Pšeničnik
Tue. Mar. 28 9:00 am Prevention of Terrorism – Justina Pšeničnik
Wed. Mar. 29 9:00 am Healing of Family Members – Justina Pšeničnik
Thur. Mar. 30 9:00 am Healing of Family Members – Justina Pšeničnik

Sat. Apr. 01 4:30 pm + Philip Goyette- His Daughters, Pat & Louise
Sun. Apr. 02 9:30 am + Anne Colon – The Sekelsky Family
11:00 am + Rocco Pugliese – Mr. & Mrs. Ed Nosal

Sat. Mar. 25 4:30 pm P. Stone/ B. Sekelsky
Sun. Mar. 26 9:30 am T. Mitchell/ J. Csom
11:00 am M.E. Vollemans/ D. Paronich

Sat. Apr. 01 4:30 pm M.E. Vollemans/ M. Coyne
Sun. Apr. 02 9:30 am P. Sullivan/ M. Colon
11:00 am D. Fejes/ S. Cassone

ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Apr. 08 Christine Santos

Sat. April 15 Volunteers Needed

FROM THE PASTOR:

ADULT CATHOLIC EDUCATION: the next classes will be conducted on Sunday, April 2nd 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 HOLY SEASON OF LENT: During this 40 day solemn Season of Lent, we are reminded in the Book of First Book of Samuel that man does not see as Almighty GOD see, for HE reads the hearts of men, and is not deceived by appearance or stature, but only what is in men's hearts. GOD has chosen those who are least likely to accomplish HIS will, as David was the youngest of the sons of Jesse, who was a shepherd, was chosen to be anointed and upon whom the Spirit of GOD rested. David is not only the ancestor of Our Lord Jesus Christ, but a figure of Our Lord-the Good Shepherd. In his Epistle to the Christians at Ephesus, Paul of Tarsus reminds us all that we were once in darkness but now have had our eyes opened to the light of GOD through Jesus Christ, and should therefore conduct ourselves of children of the Holy Light of Christ. In the Holy Gospel, Our Lord gave eye sight to a man born blind, to manifest the miracle of the Light come down from Heaven who enlightens the spiritually blind, for He says: "While I am in the world, I AM the light of the world." Hence, Our Lord calls us to receive the light to guide us through this valley of darkness into the Eternal Light of Heaven.

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.

ST. PIUS X CHURCH IN FAIRFIELD: invites everyone to a PARISH MISSION presented by the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, from Monday, April 3rd – Thursday, April 6th beginning at 7:30 pm. Please consult the flyer posted on the Church vestibule bulletin board for further information on the activity of the night and its associated theme.

SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS: the theatre production of "Jesus Christ, Superstar," during Palm Sunday weekend April 6 – 8th at 8:00 pm, and, on Palm Sunday at 3:00 pm, in the Edgerton Theatre on campus. Call the box office at 203. 371. 7908 for tickets, or go on line at edgertoncenter.org. \$5.00 off discount code general public: PALMBPT.

Having this opportunity the week before Holy Week can be another way to enhance one's spiritual journey during this season of spiritual renewal.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: on December 7, 1965 the Second Vatican Council approved *Dignitatis Humanae*, the *Declaration on Religious Liberty*. The Declaration addresses a question that comes up in every generation: how do we understand freedom, truth, and the relationship between church and state?

Visit: uscbb.org and search for: *Human Dignitatis Humanae* for a comprehensive explanation.

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.

MARCH INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: *Universal Intention:* that Persecuted Christians may be supported by the prayers and material help 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, Mary Ann Koprivec, Margaret Kuharec, Pat Lenahan, Madalene Lennon, Gabriel Loeser, Anton Lukman, Paul Lytwyn, 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, esp., Msgr. John Brown, Mia McCaffrey, and Fanni Dermastja. 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/ APRIL:

- Sunday, March 26,
- Fourth Sunday in Lent: *Lætare* Sunday
- Saturday, April 1
- In Honor of Our Lady
- Sunday, April 2
- Fifth Sunday in Lent

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION
March 25



With great joy, Holy Mother the Church celebrated the Solemnity of the Annunciation this Saturday, on March 25th (which was yesterday), exactly 9 months prior to celebrating the Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on Christmas-December 25th.

The Annunciation commemorates the event when Angel Gabriel appeared to the Blessed Virgin Mary and announced to her that she was to give birth to the Son of GOD through the Power and overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. This Child would be the Divine Plan for our Eternal Salvation. According to the Holy Gospel of St. Luke I: 26 - 38:

“In the sixth month, the Angel Gabriel was sent from GOD to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the House of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. Upon arriving, the Angel said to her ‘Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.’ She was deeply troubled by his words, and wondered what his greeting meant.

The Angel went on to say to her: ‘Do not fear, Mary. You have found favor with GOD. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Great will be His dignity and He will be called Son of the MOST HIGH. The Lord GOD will give Him the throne of David His Father. He will rule over the House of Jacob forever and His reign will be without end.’ Mary said to the Angel, ‘How can this be, since I do not know man?’ The Angel answered her: ‘the MOST HIGH will overshadow you; hence, the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of GOD. Know that Elizabeth your kinswoman has conceived a son in her old age, she who was thought to be sterile is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible with GOD’.

Mary said: ‘I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.’ With that, the Angel left her.”

March 18/19, 2017

Regular Collection: \$ 1,378.00

Capitol Improvement: \$ 1,197.00

Miscellaneous: \$ 205.00