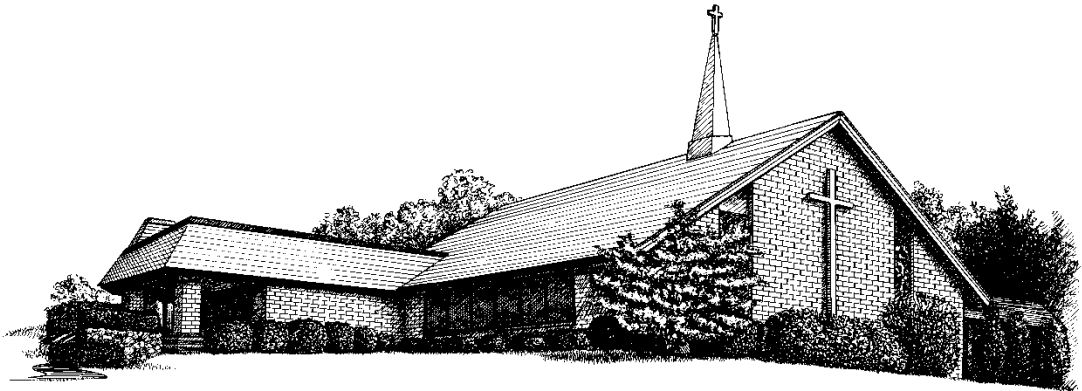


Holy Cross Parish ~ Župnija Svetega Križa



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*
Rector: 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.	Dec. 02	4:30 pm + Štefka Arlič – Marija Schadl - & Family
Sun.	Dec. 03	9:30 am + Rocco Pugliese – Mr. & Mrs. Bernhardt Schindler
		11:00 am + Milan Sattler – Frank Ficko & Family
Mon.	Dec. 04	9:00 am + Michael Mackno – Glenn & Carol Mackno
Tue.	Dec. 05	9:00 am + Elsa Havanich – Her Estate
Wed.	Dec. 06	9:00 am + Deceased Members of the Schindler Family – Mr. & Mrs. Bernhardt Schindler
Thur.	Dec. 07	9:00 am + Marge Sabia – A Friend
		4:30 pm + Allan Chomortany – His Wife Evelyn & Family
Fri.	Dec. 08	9:00 am + Robert Desel – James & Diane Caserta
Sat.	Dec. 09	4:30 pm + Stephen Ray – Monica Ray & Family
Sun.	Dec. 10	9:30 am + Zdravko Hribar – Marija Schadl & Family
		11:00 am Living & + Deceased Members of the Koprivec & Haray Families – Mary Ann Koprivec and Family

Sat.	Dec. 02	4:30 pm	J. Piczko/ M. Coyne	Thu.	Dec. 07	4:30 pm	J. Piczko/ B. Sekelsky	Sat.	Dec. 09	4:30 pm	D. Fejes/ T. Mitchell
Sun.	Dec. 03	9:30 am	P. Stone/ J. Csom	Fri.	Dec., 08	9:00 am	T. Mitchell/ P. Walsh	Sun.	Dec. 10	9:30 am	P. Stone/ M. Colon
		11:00 am	T. Mitchell/ S. Cassone							11:00 am	P. Sullivan/ W. Sullivan

ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Dec. 09 M. Csom Sat. Dec. 16 Volunteers Needed

FROM THE PASTOR:

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT: with Evening Prayer of the First Sunday in Advent, the new year of the Church begins. The Lectionary Cycles are changed to year B in the Sunday Cycle, and Cycle II for the Weekday Cycle in Ordinary Time.

For those who follow the Liturgy of the Hours, Volume I is used until the end of the Christmas season-through Night Prayer of February 2nd-the Feast of the Presentation of Our Lady in the Temple, also known as Candlemas Day. Volume II begins with Morning Prayer on February 3rd.

WELCOME: to Fr. Daniel Houde, O. T., a Trinitarian Father who is conducting our Parish Mission. Originally from Chikapee, MA, Fr. Houde entered the seminary for the Franciscan Fathers, but later entered the Order of the Most Holy Trinity. Their Provincial House is in Pikesville, MD. Fr. is currently serving in the merged parish of St. Richard/ Most holy Rosary Church in Palm Bay, FL.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: this Friday, December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception:
a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION TO ATTEND MASS.

The Immaculate Conception-the event when Our Lady, Mary, was conceived in the womb of her mother St. Ann is NOT to be confused with the “Virgin Birth” which refers to Our Lady-Mary- conceiving the Son of GOD in her womb. This Event is also called the Incarnation, when the 2nd Person of the Divine Trinity assumed a human nature through Our Lady, and became man in all things but sin-of course HE was born without Original Sin-being the Son of GOD and of Divine Essence.

On December 8, 1854, Pope Pius IX, decreed:

“From the first instance of Her conception, by a singular privilege and grace granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, (Mary) was preserved from all stain of Original Sin.”

The formal active essence of Original Sin was not removed from her soul as in others *via* the Sacrament of Baptism, it was excluded, that is it was never in her soul. This was done by the merits of her Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Hence, “Immaculate Conception” refers to Mary being conceived without Original Sin as is the rest of humanity-the curse of the sin of Adam as is proffered in the Book Genesis.

MASS TIMES FOR THE HOLY DAY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Thursday, December 7th – 4:30 Vigil Mass;

Friday, December 8th – 9:00 am

THE SECOND COLLECTION: next weekend will be the usual Monthly Collection.

THE SECOND COLLECTION: the following week will be the Capitol Improvement Fund for the renovation project.

CCD/RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES: meet Monday afternoons from 5:30 – 6:30 pm, following the Fairfield Public School Calendar. In the event of inclement weather, please stay tuned to the local news for cancellations.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: CCD/Rel. Ed. Students and Faculty in conjunction with members of the Finance Board invite you to a Christmas all you can eat Breakfast, the third Sunday in Advent, *Laetare Sunday*, December 17th following both Sunday Masses. The breakfast includes unlimited pancakes, eggs, sausage, pastries and sweets, coffee, tea, and juices. Santa will greet all the children. The cost is ONLY \$5.00 per person. Come and enjoy a nice breakfast at the hands of our jolly and experienced chefs in the parish hall.

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve Masses:

4:30 Vigil Mass; 00:00 Midnight Mass.

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day Masses:

9:30 & 11:00 am.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: the next class of Adult Education will meet next Sunday, December 10th in the parish hall between the hours of 9:45 – 10:35 am. The topic of study will be the Sacraments, beginning with Baptism. The next classes will be on Sunday, December 10th. You are all invited to come and learn the rudiments of our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Faith.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: in a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) urged the Senate to respect life when changing the health care mandate. The USCCB says no health care reform plan should compel us or others to pay for the destruction of human life, whether through government funding or mandatory coverage of abortion. Long-standing “Hyde Amendment” protections must extend to any relevant health care plan in order to prevent federal funding of abortion and not as a temporary fix or future promise.

THE INFIRM: We pray for the healing & restoration of good health to all our infirm family members, friends, & Parishioners in particular:



Marie Adams, Robert Balling, Alan Bedwell, Mary Lou Cahill, Dorothy Cassidy, Lori Cellini, Anthony Cilo, Terry D'Amico, Don DeMattia, Larry DiGiacomo, Madeline Doherty, Eileen Donohue, Melissa Doran, Jon Duguid, Mary Galich, Anna Grotti, Linda Grzegowski, Rhoda Harap, Colleen Horan, Peter John, Kathleen Johnson, Maureen Kelly, Ron & Alma Knight, Mary Ann Koprivec, Louise Kranyik, Margaret Kuharec, Patricia Land, Pat Lenahan, Madalene Lennon, Gabriel Loeser, Will Lowney, Anton Lukman, Lillian Makar, Patty Merola, Jackie Mitchell, Jim Motley, James Norris, Marc Pagnozzi, Gregory Parsley, Ilona Paul, Elizabeth Petrushonis, Lucille Piccirillo, Joseph Piliero, Justina Pšeničnik, Edward & Diane Raschke, Louis Rednak, Joel Rivera, Mary Ann Santolupo, Annette & Bernie Senderak, Micheal Sheets, Louise Tatangelo, Jaye Turner, Katherine Vallone, KJ Waller, Frank Us, and 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 DECEMBER:

- Sunday, Dec. 03
First Sunday in Advent
- Monday, Dec. 04
St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor
- Wednesday, Dec. 06
St. Nicholas, Bishop
- Thursday, Dec. 07
St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor
- Friday, Dec. 08
HOLY DAY: Immaculate Conception
- Saturday, Dec. 09
St. Juan Diego Cuauhtloatzin
In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, Dec. 10
Second Sunday in Advent

**HOLY ADVENT SEASON
ADVENT I**



The Holy Season of Advent has its origins in the 4th century, when it became custom to celebrate a festival beginning on the eve of St. Martin of Tours-November 11. This day falls 40 days before the celebration of the birth of the Messiah at Christmas. People all over Europe, esp. in France, celebrated this great feast with grapes and wine tasting (drinking) the new wine of the season.

Winemakers tasted each other's wine-eventually it became known as the day of the "baptism of the wine" an event which evolved into a major festival of eating, drinking and dancing, ending at midnight of the feast day. In the Slavic country (Slovenija) it came to be known as *Martinovanje*-or St. Martin's Fast-in honor of St. Martin. St. Martin Day then began a 40 day-6 weeks-season of fast & abstinence similar to that of Lent.

The Church eventually named this period of fast & abstinence "*Adventus*" -the Coming, anticipating the coming of the Messiah. During this time, all drinking, dancing, and eating of meats was forbidden, so as to prepare spiritually for the coming of the Messiah without temporal distraction, but with spiritual anticipation.

Although currently Advent has only 4 weeks as is depicted by the *Advent Wreath*, initially, it was 6 weeks in length. The 4th Sunday in both Advent & Lent were seen as half way points in each season, when the harshness of the fast was mitigated or softened. These Sundays became known as *Gaudete* and *Laetare* Sundays respectively. Prior to these Sundays, the theme of the Readings is the call to await the coming of Christ. After these Sundays, the theme and the Readings focus on the Mysteries surrounding the birth, and, the Passion & Death of the Son of God respectively.

Hence, Advent is a time to reflect on our relationship with God, and a time to prepare to for the birth of His Son on the day we call Christmas.

Unfortunately, in our day, Christmas has become a secular holiday, where vendors stress the commercial aspect of gift buying and giving to increase their profits, without any regard for the true reason of the season-the birth of the Son of God-the Messiah. Advent is a reminder and a call to focus, reflect and celebrate the beginning of Salvation with the birth of the Son of God, Jesus the Christ at Christmas. REMEMBER: *Keep Christmas in Christ!*

November 18/ 19, 2017

Regular Collection: \$ 1,627.00
Capital Improvement: \$ 1,081.00
Miscellaneous: \$ 397.00

November 28/ 29, 2017

Regular Collection: \$ 1,945.00
Diocesan: Human Devel. \$ 165.00
Miscellaneous: \$ 689.00