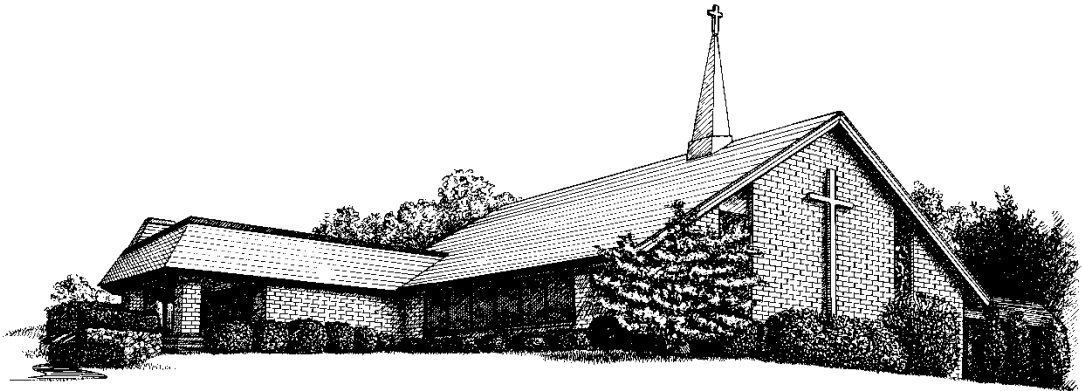


Fourth Sunday in Advent/ Četrta Adventna Nedelja

December 24, 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. Dec. 23 4:30 pm + James T. Kranyik – His Daughter, Patricia Butzko
Sun. Dec. 24 9:30 am + Ethel Wuennemann – Donna, Michael, and Joseph Pintek
11:00 am + Alex & Mary Zlatar & John Gurrieri, Sr. – Anna Gurrieri
4:30 pm + Anton Schadl, Gene & Helen Gross – The Gross & Schadl Families
Mon. Dec. 25 00:00 am + Ethel Wuennemann – Mary Pintek & Family
9:30 am + Eugenia Pečarič – Her Children
11:00 am + Narcisa Pecchiari – Her Nephew & Niece
Tues. Dec. 26 9:00 am + Maria Nilo – Mr. & Mrs. John DeCaro
Wed. Dec. 27 9:00 am Conversion of Sinners – Justina Pšeničnik
Thur. Dec. 28 9:00 am Special Intention of - Justina Pšeničnik
Sat. Dec. 30 4:30 pm + Gwen Bonatti – Mr. & Mrs. John DeCaro
Sun. Dec. 31 9:30 am + Hedwig Schindler – Mr. & Mrs. Bernhardt Schindler
11:00 am + Alex & Mary Zlatar & John Gurrieri – Anna Gurrieri

Sat. Dec. 23	4:30 pm	J. Piczko/ T. Mitchell	Sun. Dec. 24	4:30 pm	D. Fejes,, J. Piczko/ M. Colon	Sat. Dec. 30	4:30 pm	J. Adams/ J. Adams
Sun. Dec. 24	9:30 am	B. Sekelsky/ B. Sekelsky	Mon. Dec. 25	00:00	J.Adam/ A. Adams	Sun. Dec. 31	9:30 am	J. Piczko/ M. Colon
	11:00 am	D. Fejes/ P. Walsh		9:30 am	T. Mitchell, B. Sekelsky/ J. Csom		11:00 am	T. Mitchell/ S. Cassone
				11:00 am	P. & W. Sullivan/ D. Paronich			

FROM THE PASTOR:

THE SECOND COLLECTION: next weekend will be the *Retired Religious Collection*.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: the next class of Adult Education will resume in 2018 and convene on Sundays, January 14th and 28th in the parish hall between the hours of 9:45 – 10:35 am. The topic of study continues to be the Sacraments. The topic of study will be the Creed. You are all invited to come and learn the rudiments of our One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Faith.

PLEASE NOTE: that the parish office will be closed for the Christmas Holy Days from Saturday, December 23 – New Year's Day Monday Tuesday, 2018. The office will be open Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

CCD CLASSES: there are no CCD classes Monday December 26, nor on January 2, 2018; classes will resume on Monday, January 9, 2018 at the usual times of 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

MERRY CHRISTMAS



VESELI BOŽIČ



The Staff here at Holy Cross Church wishes all of you a beautiful and holy feast celebration Our Lord's birth at Christmas. May the Son of God, born to us as the Messiah at Whose birth we rejoice, bless you & your families with good health, prosperity, joy, peace, and, an increase of the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity throughout the new year of 2015.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER: "Help us rightly to remember the birth of Your Only-Begotten Son, Our Lord Jesus-the Messiah, we may share in the song of the Angels, the gladness of the Shepherds and the worship of the Wise Men.

May we close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

May kindness come with every gift and good desire and with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing that the Messiah brings and teach us to be joyful with clean hearts.

May Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and may Christmas evening, bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for the sake of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives with You and the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and from the ages unto the ages. Amen."

MASS TIMES FOR THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NATIVITY AT CHRISTMAS:

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th - 4:30 Vigil Mass

Midnight Mass at Christmas, Monday, December 25th – 00:00 Midnight

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25th - 9:30 and 11:00 am Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY: the Solemnity of Our Lady, Mary, the *Holy Theotokos*-the GOD bearer, January 1st is NOT a Holy Day of OBLIGATION this year, as it falls on a Monday. You invited to attend the 9:00 Mass on New Year's Day to consecrate the new year of 2018 to Our Lord, invoking His blessing, for protection and peace.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM: at 1 State Street in New Haven, has a new Christmas exhibit, *Peace on Earth: Crèches of the World*. The show includes more than 70 Nativity scenes from artists across the globe, including a large set from Mexico, hand-carved in cedar, as well as the museum's popular 120-square-foot Baroque Neapolitan (Italian) diorama. The exhibition opened November 18 and closes February 19 Open 10-5 daily. Admission & parking are free. For more information, please call: 203-865-0400 or access: www.kofcmuseum.org

Fourth Sunday in Advent/ Četrta Adventna Nedelja

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, 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, December 24
Fourth Sunday in Advent/
Vigil of the Holy Nativity of Our Lord
- Monday, December 25
Solemnity of the Birth of the Son of GOD:
Christmas
- Tuesday, December 26
St. Stephen, Proto Martyr
- Wednesday, December 27
St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
- Thursday, December 28
Commemoration of the Holy Innocents
- Friday, December 29
St. Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr
- Saturday, December 30
In Honor of Our Lady
- Sunday, December 31
Feast of the Holy Family

December 16/17, 2017

<i>Regular Collection:</i>	<i>\$ 2,292.00</i>
<i>Capital Improvement:</i>	<i>\$ 1,686.00</i>
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>	<i>\$ 414.00</i>
<i>Pancake Breakfast:</i>	<i>\$ 600.00</i>

December 24, 2017

HOLY ADVENT SEASON

ADVENT IV



During this final week in Advent, the Readings at Mass focus on the sacred mysteries surrounding Our Lord's obscure birth, beginning with the apparition of the Angel Gabriel to Our Lady. Although very little is known of the early life of Mary, extra-biblical literature reveals her parents were elderly, holy, and childless, Joachim and Anna. Joachim is reputed to have been a wealthy Priest who donated one third of his income to the poor; one third to the Temple; and subsisted on the remaining third. After years of entreating the Lord for a child, when she finally conceived, Anna vows to dedicate the child to God.

After mystical events occurred, the High Priest understood that young child at 3 years of age, had been singularly selected by God, so she was reared in the Temple precincts, under the instruction of the Torah.

The Prophet Micah, a contemporary of the Prophet Isaiah-living 8 centuries before Christ-uttered the first prophecy of God healing his people. He speaks to frustrated people living in social corruption that the glory of the Lord would restore Zion. He foretells that a prince of David's house will rule over a reunited Israel:

"In days to come, the mount of the Lord's house shall be established higher than the mountains; it shall rise high above the hills, and peoples shall stream to it: many nations shall come and say 'Come, let us climb the mount of the Lord, to the house of God of Jacob, that He may instruct us in His ways, that we may walk in His paths. For from Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

The obscure Prophet Micah also utters the first prophecy regarding the Messiah, and His origins:

"But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah too small to be among the clans of Judah, for from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old from ancient times. Therefore the Lord will give them up until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, and the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel."

Early Christianity recognized in this prophecy the reference to Our Lady as the beginning of our redemption. As he greeted her: "Hail Mary, full of Grace, the Lord is with you, and blessed are you among women," he reveals that Divine favor was with her already. Furthermore, her response to the Angel: "Let it be done to me according to your word," shows total desire to collaborate with God, despite her unknowing but yet determined will to what HE would ask of her. Hence the prophecy of Micah comes to fulfillment, in the Mystery of Our Lord's birth.