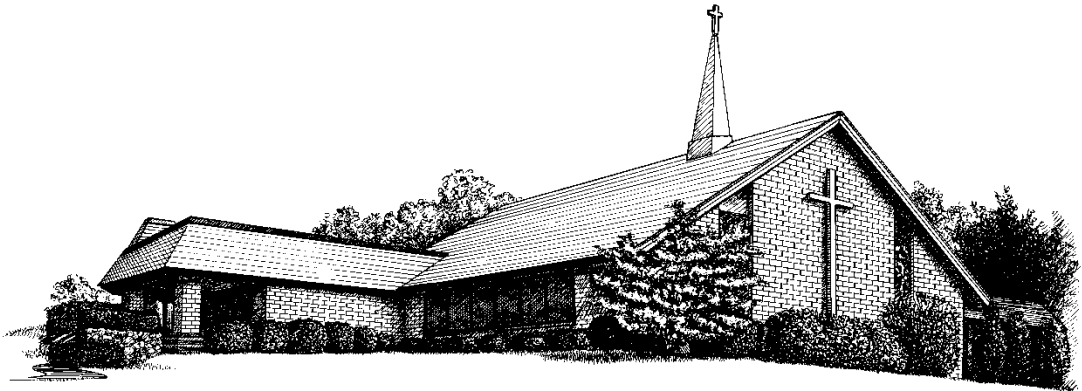


Second Sunday in Advent/ Druga Adventna Nedelja

December 10, 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. 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  
Mon. Dec. 11 9:00 am + Steve Tkalecz – Linda DeProfio  
Tue. Dec. 12 9:00 am Conversion of Terrorists – Justina Pšeničnik  
Wed. Dec. 13 9:00 am + Steve Tkalecz – Anna Gurrieri & Family  
Thur. Dec. 14 9:00 am + Stephen Ray – Theresa & Marilyn Feranec

Sat. Dec. 16 4:30 pm + Andrew Kokorda - Mary Ann Koprivec & Family  
Sun. Dec. 17 9:30 am + Florence DeProfio – Linda DeProfio  
11:00 am + Eugenia Pečarič – Her Children

Sat. Dec. 09 4:30 pm D. Fejes/ T. Mitchell  
Sun. Dec. 10 9:30 am P. Stone/ M. Colon  
11:00 am P. Sullivan/ W. Sullivan

Sat. Dec. 16 4:30 pm J. Adams/ J. Adams  
Sun. Dec. 17 9:30 am T. Mitchell/ P. Walsh  
11:00 am B. Sekelsky/ L. Selimović

ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Dec. 16 Volunteers Needed

Sat. Dec. 23 Volunteers Needed

FROM THE PASTOR:

**THE SECOND COLLECTION:** this weekend is the usual *Monthly Collection*.

**THE SECOND COLLECTION:** next weekend will be the *Capital Improvement Fund* for the completion of the renovation project.

**FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:** Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> is the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe commemorating the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary-depicted as the Aztec Princess-to Juan Diego at the hill of Tepeyac, Mexico from Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> in the year 1531. Known to the Aztec Peoples as Teccoatlxope (or Guadalupe in Spanish) meaning “She will crush the serpent of stone” she was declared Patroness of the Americas by Pope Pius XII and raised to the rank of Feast for all countries in the Americas. As a result of this apparition, Christianity became the prevalent Religion throughout Mexico, Central and South America, and, human sacrifices came to an end.

**ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:** CCD/ REL ED Students and Faculty in conjunction with the Finance Board invite you to the Christmas coffee hour/pancake breakfast next **Sunday, the third Sunday in Advent, Laetare Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** following the 9:30 & 11:00 am Masses. The breakfast includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, pastries and sweets, coffee, tea, and juices. The cost is ONLY \$5.00 per person. Santa Clause will greet the children of the parish.

**CCD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT:** will take place on Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup> followed by a Christmas party. All parishioners are welcome to attend the pageant in preparation for the birth of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**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.

**ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:** the next class of Adult Education will meet next Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> in the parish hall between the hours of 9:45 – 10:35 am. The topic of study continues to be the Sacraments. Classes will resume in 2018 and convene on Sundays, January 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**ADVENT CONFESSIONS:** Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 3: 45 – 4: 15 pm, and, on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:00 pm.

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT:** this year the Solemnity of the birth of our most Holy Saviour falls on a Monday, we are still required to attend Mass for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, in addition to a Mass for the Feast of the Nativity. If you plan to attend the 4:30 Vigil Mass on Sunday, Christmas Eve, you must either attend the 4:30 Vigil Mass on Saturday, or, one of the 2 Sunday am Masses. Going to Mass for Christmas does NOT satisfy the obligation to worship GOD on Sunday. You **CANNOT:** “kill 2 birds with one stone.” Do not cheat GOD of the worship that is HIS!

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

**Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 Vigil Mass**  
**Midnight Mass at Christmas, Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> – 00:00 Midnight**  
**Christmas Day, Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> - 9:30 and 11:00 am Mass**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY:** the Solemnity of Our Lady, Mary, the *Holy Theotokos*-the GOD bearer, January 1<sup>st</sup> is NOT a Holy Day of OBLIGATION this year, as if 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.

**DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:** in a letter to the U.S. Senate, the United States Conference for Catholic Bishops (USCCB) stated that it stands ready to work with Congress to address problems with the *Affordable Care Act* in order to protect the most vulnerable among us. They said, “The Catholic Church remains committed to ensuring the fundamental right to medical care, a right which is in keeping with the God-given dignity of every person, and the corresponding obligation as a country to provide for this right. Health care debates must not be reduced to only those elements which appear most politically expedient; those without a strong voice in the process must not bear the brunt of attempts to cut costs.”

**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](http://www.kofcmuseum.org).

**POPE FRANCIS INTENTION FOR THE ELDERLY:** that Elderly People, sustained by families and Christian Communities and may apply their personal wisdom and experience to spreading our Holy Faith to the new generations of young peoples.

**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, esp., Jerome Schwab and Theresa D'Amico. 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. 10  
Second Sunday in Advent
- Monday, Dec. 11  
St. Damasus I, Pope
- Tuesday, Dec. 12  
Our Lady of Guadalupe
- Wednesday, Dec. 14  
St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr
- Thursday, Dec. 14  
St. John of the Cross, Mystic Priest
- Saturday, Dec. 16  
In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, Dec. 17  
Third Sunday in Advent: *Laetare* Sunday

**HOLY ADVENT SEASON**

**ADVENT II**



Every year, the holy season of Advent reminds us to prepare spiritually for the coming of Our Lord by a Sacramental Confession, as St. John the Baptist bids us: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"

Man cannot live without hope. Unlike animals, we are blessed with the ability to arbitrate-to choose-to think about our future. Without hope, we have nothing to live for and when we have nothing to look forward to we surrender to death in despair.

In the First Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah, on this Second Sunday in Advent, the holy Prophet inspires hope as he announces the favor of the Lord GOD: "Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your GOD. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her service is at an end, her guilt is expiated; indeed, she has received from the hand of the Lord double for all her sins."

Isaiah alludes to the desert as a symbol of the purification of our wayward hearts and he exhorts us to prepare the way of the Lord. By our acknowledging our sins and repenting of them, we make straight a highway for our God. It is only after we have made such a preparation that the "glory of the Lord shall be revealed."

In the Holy Gospel, St. Mark echoes the exhortation of the Prophet Isaiah through the ministry of St. John the Baptist. St. John appears in the desert-the place of purification from the sins of city life. Many of the inhabitants were going out to him as they acknowledged and confessed their sins as he baptized them in the waters of the Jordan.

Confession of sins is an integral part of Advent, the season of preparing for the Light from Heaven-the Messiah of God, Whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. In truth, we cannot celebrate the birth of Christ if we do not spiritually prepare to receive Him with a clear conscience, with a clean heart and our souls free from sin.

The inhabitants of Jerusalem publically confessed their sins to one another and to St. John. We confess our sins in a more personal setting to a duly ordained Priest, who represents Christ Himself. It is Christ the spiritual healer who absolves our sins through the ministry of the Priest. One of the hallmarks of a sacramental Confession is humility, to kneel down and express our contrition for the times we have offended Our Lord.

*December 2/3, 2017*

<i>Regular Collection:</i>	<i>\$ 1,773.00</i>
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>	<i>\$ 502.00</i>
<i>Mission Collection</i>	<i>\$ 303.00</i>