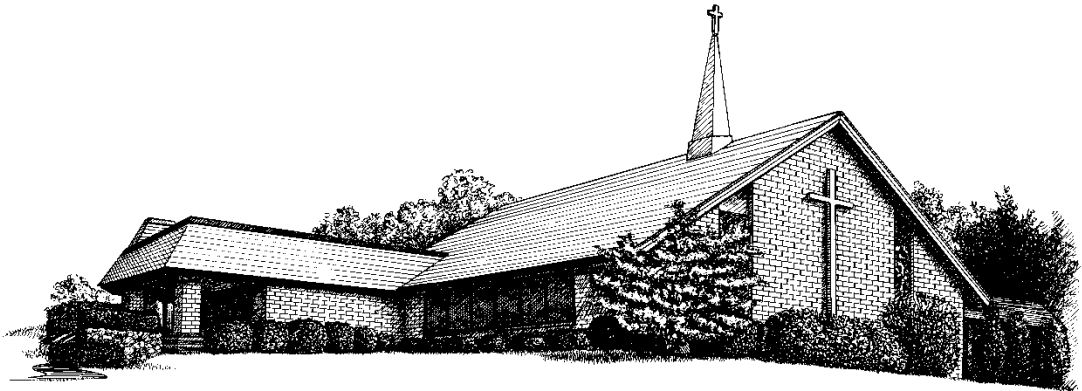


Third Sunday in Advent/ Tretja Adventna Nedelja

December 17, 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. 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

Mon. Dec. 18 9:00 am + Ronald Burns – Michael & Clare Coyne
Tue. Dec. 19 9:00 am + Elsa Havanich – Her Estate
Wed. Dec. 20 9:00 am + Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Belovich – Marija Schadl
Thur. Dec. 21 9:00 am + Janes Hribšek – His Sister, Justina Pšeničnik

Sat. Dec. 23 4:30 pm + Jane T. Kranyik – Her 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

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

Sat. Dec. 23 4:30 pm J. Piczko/ T. Mitchell
Sun. Dec. 24 9:30 am B. Sekelsky/ B. Sekelsky
11:00 am D. Fejes/ P. Walsh

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ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Dec. 23 Volunteers Needed

December 17, 2017

Sat. Dec. 30 C. & N. Conklin

FROM THE PASTOR:

GAUDETE SUNDAY: this Sunday, is the Third Sunday in Advent known *Gaudete* Sunday. It is so called “Gaudete” – “Rejoice” from the first word of the Antiphon of the Traditional Mass of the Latin Rite (known as the *Tridentine* Mass). It is taken from the Latin translation of the Epistle to Philippians IV: 4 – 5, which sets the tone of joyful anticipation of the Lord’s birth and Second Coming: “*Rejoice in the Lord. I say it again, rejoice.*” Echoing this spirit of joy of the coming of our Saviour, and so to soften the penitential aspect of Advent, the color of the vestments at Mass is changed to rose, as is the third candle in the Advent Wreath.

THE SECOND COLLECTION: this weekend is the *Capitol Improvement Fund* for the completion of the renovation project.

THE SECOND COLLECTION: the weekend of December 29/30th will be the *Retired Religious Collection*.

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 this morning 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. Don’t disappoint our chefs!

CCD CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: will take place tomorrow, Monday, December 18th 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 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 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 16th from 3: 45 – 4: 15 pm, and THIS Tuesday, December 19th 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 4th 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.” Remember the Third Commandment: “*Thou shalt keep holy the Sabbath Day,*” this includes the Fourth Sunday in Advent.

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 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.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: Pope Francis has warned, “When a sick person is not placed at the center and considered in their dignity, attitudes arise which can even lead to profiteering on other people’s misfortunes. The growing health poverty among the poorest segments of the population is due precisely to the difficulty of access to care . . .” Let us pray that in transforming the HHS federal mandate, religious rights of the Catholic Church will be safeguarded.

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.

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. 17
Third Sunday in Advent
- Thursday, Dec. 21
St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor
- Saturday, Dec. 23
St. John of Kanty, Priest
In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, Dec. 24
Fourth Sunday in Advent/
Vigil of the Holy Nativity of Our Lord
- Monday, 25
Solemnity of the Birth of the Son of GOD:
Christmas

HOLY ADVENT SEASON

ADVENT III



On this Third Sunday in Advent, known as *Gaudete* Sunday, the Church encourages us to rejoice with an inner sense of gladness in the midst of this busy season anticipating the coming of the Messiah, first, at His coming by His birth as man-which we celebrate on the Holy Day of Christmas-and secondly, at His coming at the end of the ages when He will return in Glory to judge the living and the Dead.

In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah, reminds us of the reason for this great joy: we will see the glory of our God, Who is in our midst-a Mighty Saviour Who will show us His splendor: we shall see the feeble & weak made strong, the fearful shall be vindicated, the blind shall see, the lame shall leap like a stag, the mute shall sing out, those in exile shall return to their land with joy and gladness, and, there will be no more sorrow or mourning.

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in the Holy Gospel in response to the question St. John the Baptist-who was in prison-sent his disciples to ask Our Lord: "Are you the One who is to come, or should we look for another?"

In His reply, Our Lord told them: "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them." Hence, the splendor of the Mercy of God is shown to those living in the darkness of their affliction. This is the reason for joy.

Throughout this holy season of Advent, continual reference is made also to Our Lord's second coming, which is emphasized by the additional signs of gladness which are permitted on this day. *Gaudete* Sunday is further marked by a new "invitatory"-the invitation to prayer- no longer inviting the Faithful to merely adore "The Lord Who is to come," but calling up them to worship and hail Him with joy: "The Lord Who is now nigh & close at hand." Therefore, in this spirit of joy at the coming of the Lord, the color of the Liturgical vestments is changed to rose, and joy is enunciated by the Church.

The Holy Season of Advent affords us the opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God, to turn away from sin, prepare for the birth of His Son on the day we call *Christmas*. We prepare ourselves by reflecting

December 9/10, 2017

Regular Collection: \$ 1,021.00

Monthly Collection: \$ 375.00

Miscellaneous: \$ 161.00

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on our behaviour, conduct, demeanor, and, by a
Sacramental Confession regretting our transgressions of
the Commandments of our Holy God.

December 17, 2017