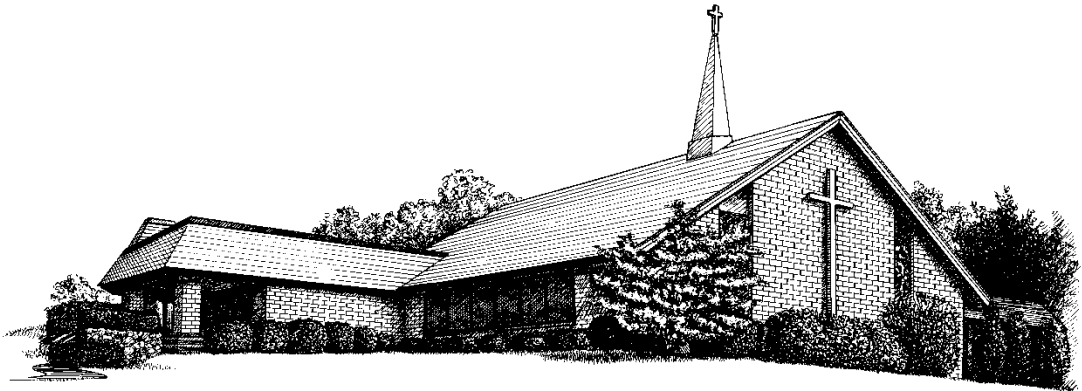


First Sunday in Lent/ Prva Postna Nedelja

February 18, 2018

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

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*
Mrs. Lori Golias - *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. Feb. 17 4:30 pm + Donald P. Butzko – His Wife Patricia Butzko
Sun. Feb. 18 9:30 am + Susan Duh – Holy Cross Seniors
11:00 am + Intention of John M. DiGiacomo – A Friend

Mon. Feb. 19 9:00 am + Bernard Skopp – Theresa & Marilyn Feranec
Tues. Feb. 20 9:00 am + Susan Duh – Joe and Dotty Fejes
Wed. Feb. 21 9:00 am + Wendell Lee Graybeal – A Friend
Thur. Feb. 22 9:00 am + Philip J. DeProfio – Linda DeProfio

Sat. Feb. 24 4:30 pm + Allan Chomortany – His Wife Evelyn & Family
Sun. Feb. 25 9:30 am + Susan Duh – Lea Belovich
11:00 am + Philip J. DeProfio – Linda DeProfio

Sat. Feb. 17 4:30 pm P. Stone/ P. Walsh
Sun. Feb. 18 9:30 am J. Piczko/ J. Csom
11:00 am B. Sekelsky/ D. Paronich

Sat. Feb. 24 4:30 pm J. Adams/ J. Adams
Sun. Feb. 25 9:30 am D. Fejes/ M. Colon
11:00 am B. Sekelsky/ L. Selimović

ALTAR SOCIETY: Sat. Feb. 24 A. Proklay/ P. Stone

Sat. Mar. 03 M. Colon/ T. Sekelsky

FROM THE PASTOR:

***** FRIDAYS DURING LENT AND 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*****

STATION OF THE CROSS: will be conducted every Friday evening at 7:00 pm, followed by Benediction.

FISH FRY: Knights of Columbus from Holy Family Parish will be hosting a Fish Fry every Friday during Lent here at Holy Cross Parish Hall between the hours of 5:00 – 7:00 pm. The dinner offers Clam Chowder, fish, fried potatoes & vegetables. The cost is \$8.00 for the fish dinner which includes sides dishes, coffee, tea and desert; \$2.00 for the Clam Chowder. Anyone who wishes to pick up a fish dinner following Stations of the Cross, please notify the cooks in the kitchen prior to Stations.

THE SECOND COLLECTION: this weekend is the Capital Improvement Collection for the completion of the renovation project.

LOAVES AND FISHES OFFERINGS: may be dropped in the basket at the rear of the church.

CCD/REL ED: due to the civil holiday of President’s Day, there are no classes tomorrow, Monday, February 19th. Classes resume next Monday evenings between 5:30 – 6:30pm following the Fairfield Public School Calendar. In the event of inclement weather, please stay tuned to the local weather channels for cancelations.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Every parishioner is cordially invited to attend Adult Catholic Education on The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist to deepen their understanding, belief, and love of the Sacrament of the Presence and of the Sacrifice of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Next classes are Sundays February 25, March 11 and 25 at 9:45 to 10:40 in Parish Hall. A copy of this Lesson is available in advance of class day from parish office and from the ACE instructor.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MUSEUM: are hosting a Pasta Dinner, THIS Thursday, February 22, 2018 (President George Washington’s Birthday) at the *Circolo Sportivo*-the Italian Club, at 2500 Park Ave, in Bridgeport. Dinner includes: Pasta, Meatballs and Sausage, Bread, Salad, Coffee & Dessert, and table wine. Music will be supplied by Jack Lynn. Advance Reservations are preferred by Sunday, Feb. 18. The cost is \$20.00 for adults; \$12 children under 10. Tickets at the door will be \$23.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children under 10. Please call Joe Ruospo at 203. 767. 2023 for tickets.

DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: according to USCCB President Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, the Catholic Church teaches that religious freedom has to do with immunity from coercion. Immunity from government coercion is a right that all citizens in this country should enjoy. Let us pray that efforts to change the health care bill protect the Church’s First Amendment rights.

The original health care federal mandate tried to force faith-based employers — including religious charities, schools and pro-life advocacy organizations such as the March for Life — to facilitate the coverage of drugs and contraception devices that go against our religious beliefs. When changing the mandate, let us pray that the administration safeguards religious freedom.

FEBRUARY INTENTIONS OF POPE FRANCIS: for the universal intention that all peoples, especially Christians will say “NO” to the temptation of corruption, especially those who enjoy celebrity, material and/or political power, and so resist the lure of corruption.

BIRTHRIGHT NEEDS YOU: Birthright is a crisis pregnancy service offering free pregnancy tests, friendship counseling, and practical support. Our guiding principal: It is the RIGHT of every pregnant woman to give BIRTH and the RIGHT of every child to be born. Birthright has served in CT since 1972 and helped thousands of mothers and babies. Training is provided.

BIRTHRIGHT needs gently worn maternity and baby clothing. There are nine locations in our state. Please call 1. 800. 550. 4900 for the **BIRTHRIGHT** nearest to you to arrange for drop off. Thank you.

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, 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, Diane Vince, 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, esp., Concetta Alfano Leonetti, 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 FEBRUARY:

- Sunday, February 18
First Sunday in Lent
- Monday, February 19
USA: Presidents' Day
- Wednesday, February 21
St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor
- Thursday, February 22
Chair of St. Peter, Vicar of Christ
- Fri day, February 23
St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
- Saturday, February 24
In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday, February 25
Second Sunday in Lent

February 10/11, 2018

<i>Regular Collection:</i>	<i>\$ 1,858.00</i>
<i>Monthly Collection:</i>	<i>\$ 790.00</i>
<i>Miscellaneous:</i>	<i>\$ 214.00</i>

LENT

In the English language "*Lent*" is taken from the Anglo-Saxon "*lencten*" meaning spring-or *first season*, and refers to the time in which the Paschal season occurs.

The annual observance of Holy Season of Lent is a sacred Liturgical and spiritual period of forty days of fast and penance preceding, and preparing for, the glorious feast of the Resurrection celebrated at Easter.

These 40 days excludes Sundays, which is why Lent begins with Ash Wednesday to make up 40 days: 6 weeks of Lent times 7 days equals 42 days, minus 6 Sundays renders 36 days, necessitating the addition of 4 days to make 40 days, hence Ash Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday were added resulting in 40 days.

In determining the period of forty days, the example of Moses and Elijah (both of whom appeared with Christ at HIS Transfiguration) and of Our Lord Jesus Christ was the pattern which the early Church Fathers set as a paradigm for the Faithful to follow. We especially attune ourselves to Our Lord's 40 day fast in the wilderness of Judea, at the end of which Satan tempted Christ, Who defeated and conquered the Evil One.

During this solemn period the *Gloria* and "*Alleluia*" are omitted from the Mass, because they are more joyful and glorious in tone. During the season of Lent we are encouraged to concentrate on our Lord's passion & death.

First Sunday in Lent

Lent bears a two-fold theme: repentance of offense and sin; and, of renewal of Baptismal Grace which disposes us to celebrate the Holy Pascal Mystery with joy.

The Holy Gospel for the season of Lent falls under two categories. The first category, which spans from Ash Wednesday through Saturday of week Three may be taken from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) with their corresponding instruction from the Old Testament. Their theme is the call to a life of the Gospel conversion by way of beginning anew, of fasting, depth in prayer and almsgiving, mutual forgiveness, and the call to holiness-unity with GOD, and a lifestyle appropriate to that holiness.

The Readings for the second part of Lent-the Fourth Sunday through Spy Wednesday-are taken from the Holy Gospel according to St. John which presents to us the Mystery of Jesus Christ, the Son of GOD, of Whom John says that all who believe in HIM will have Eternal Life. Christ is presented as the healer and Life-giver, as One who gives Life through conquering Temptation and Death, and so gathers into one the dispersed children of GOD.

Hence there is a transition from the ethical/moral code instructing atonement, penance, and repentance, to the instruction of approaching Christ actually and personally in a state of purity. We move from the emphasis of the code of discipleship to the Person of Jesus Christ, Son of GOD, Whom John presents as the Redeemer-the Saviour-Who will save those who recognize Him and come to Him unreservedly for Eternal Salvation.

May you be blessed with a grace-filled Lent!