

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

651 East Springfield Road • Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064

DECEMBER 13, 2020 • THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Parish Office / Rectory.....610-626-3321
610-638-4243
Parish School610-626-1709
Religious Education.....610-626-1057
Convent610-626-2491
Music Director.....holycrossmus@gmail.com
Website.....www.holycrosscatholics.org
E-mailcontactus@holycrosscatholics.org

Rev. Eugene C. Wilson..... Pastor
Rev. Edward C. Kelly Resident/Faculty COHS
Rev. Thomas J. Furey St. Joseph Villa/Retired
Deacon Thomas L. Taylor..... Permanent Deacon
Deacon Robert Frankenberger..... Retired
Deacon Joseph N. Gousie..... Retired
Mrs. Theresa Carey.....Business Manager
Dr. Mary Rose Worrirow.....Principal
Mrs. Kelly Meliti Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Grete Ingalls. MM, CAGO..... Music Director

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 4:30 PM
Sunday, Upper Church 8:30 and 11:00 AM
Holy Day As announced
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 8:30 AM
Friday* 12:15 PM

*Currently suspended - view online only

NEW PARISHIONERS

All Catholics living in the parish should register. Our Welcome Center located in the hallway behind the sanctuary is open on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

(Entrance through the middle, rear door of the Church)
Monday-Thursday only ... 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
Friday..... 8:00 AM-2:30 PM
(Closed for lunch 12:00-1:00 PM)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, Lower Church: 3:30 to 4:15 PM or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:00 PM.

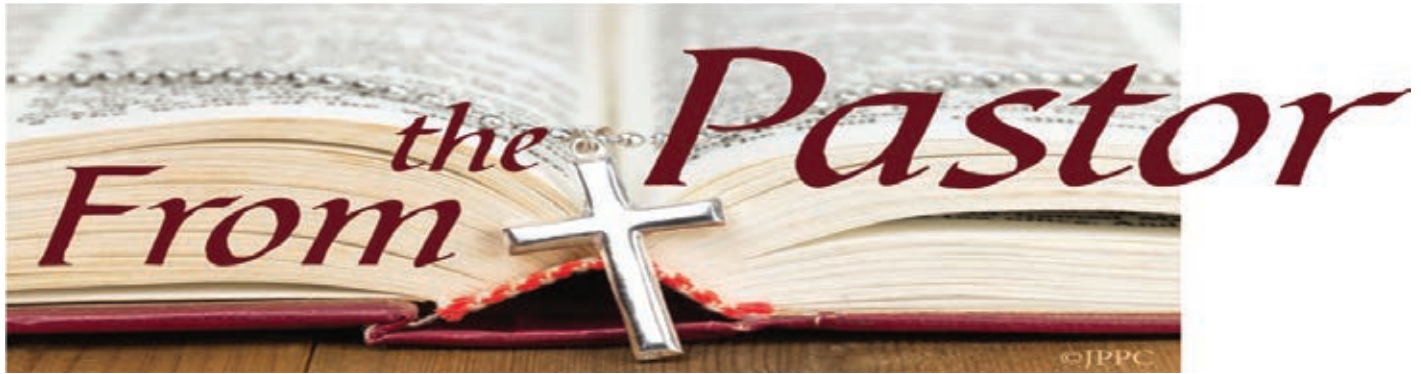
First time parents and godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session which is held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements are to be made at least six months before the intended wedding date. Weddings are reserved for active parishioners. Pre-Cana Session is required. Please call Parish Office for more information.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Please call Deacon Thomas Taylor or the Parish Office when a parishioner is hospitalized or home bound.



It was very early on a chilly morning in the days near Christmas. I was returning to my parish having enjoyed a most restful day off. It seemed especially dark that particular morning well before sunrise. A back road travelled was most familiar. The car could just about drive it by itself. Rounding a curve, I began a rather steep descent in a wooded area. No one else was on the road at that hour. I was lost in my thoughts thinking about the Mass that I would be celebrating in a little while and the homily that I would give. Looking ahead, the headlights began to catch a glimpse of something. I strained my eyes staring into the darkness. It appeared that there was something on the road. There was *definitely* something on the road. The headlights began to give greater clarity. Something quite big and quite yellow was lying across the road! Everything after this point began to happen in mere milliseconds. A school bus had flipped and was blocking the road! *Oh, my God!* There were no flashing lights of any kind. It must have just happened. I thought of the driver. I thought of the children. I would have to render assistance. I began to sweat and I began to brake. It was then that I also began to pray. The brakes had no effect. I was on black ice. There had been some rain the previous day coupled with higher temperatures and the bit of early snow on the ground had mostly melted. Water runoff always cascaded down this winding road at certain points and ordinarily wouldn't pose a problem. That morning I hadn't realized that the temperature had once again dropped to just below freezing. Runoff water had now literally become a sheet of ice. As I sped down the hill with brakes that didn't hold and ever closer to the overturned bus, I noticed something. There was a small gap between the school bus and the right edge of the road. Off the road's edge, there was a rather large tree stump with an embankment that dropped off into the woods. I wondered which I would rather strike. Tree stumps deeply rooted generally don't give way and beyond that stump were more deeply rooted trees that also wouldn't give way. I might have better luck with the big yellow box that was the bus. Well, I thought, let me at least try "threading the needle," while attempting to skirt closer to the bus that might be a tad "softer." I held the wheel tightly with my sweaty hands. Fortunately, my little SUV had a safety feature that sensed wheel slippage and made torque correction automatically. I think that helped me to maintain a bit of control. I said, "Lord, You're going to have to help me here" and then I said, "My Jesus, Mercy." I braced for impact as I sped past the bus in a flash. In my mind it was like slow motion. A figure stood off to the side of the road in the darkness. It was the school bus driver I presumed – or perhaps my guardian angel. Thank God that there were no children to be seen. It was too early. The bus with its driver was en route to young charges not yet out of bed. There was no impact. The needle had been threaded, but I wasn't able to regain the ability to brake for several hundred yards down that incline. There was no going back. I wouldn't be able to climb the hill on the ice. I thanked God while praying for the bus driver and continued on my way arriving safely at the parish for Mass. It would truly be a Mass of Thanksgiving. Advent is certainly not a time of fright, but rather one of joy. However, the rush of the season can sometimes be as that day of sliding on black ice. Impact can appear imminent as things seemingly get out of our control with the decorating, shopping and deadlines. Then, there is the New Year so soon to arrive with taxes that are due and a pandemic on-going. And let's not even mention things political! It is important to hold the wheel steady and pray! With our own prayer and that of others for us, we're able to "thread the needle" and soon enough we will arrive at Bethlehem where a Savior is born very early in the darkest hours that give way to a whole New Day filled with brilliant sunlight! It is that Day for which we now so long! Safe travels! *Come, O Come, Emmanuel!*

Peace!

Fr. Wilson

Masses For The Week



MONDAY **DECEMBER 14**
8:30 AM **Nero & Cermignani Families**

TUESDAY **DECEMBER 15**
8:30 AM **Bill Sidebottom**

WEDNESDAY **DECEMBER 16**
8:30 AM **Bill Poppert**

THURSDAY **DECEMBER 17**
NO MASS

FRIDAY - Public Mass suspended during the green phase.
Mass available online.

FRIDAY **DECEMBER 18**
12:15 PM **Julia & John Grandizio and John F. Grandizio**

NEXT WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY **DECEMBER 19**
8:30 AM **Francesco & Annunziata Mazza**
4:30 PM **Tomczyk & Whalen Families**

SUNDAY **DECEMBER 20**
8:30 AM **Angela M. Organek**
11:00 AM **Francis & Catherine Armstrong**



Sunday Collection, December 6

Total Collection **\$6,339**

Electronic **\$3,215**

Basket & Mail-ins **\$ 3,124**

On-Line Giving

Join the growing number of Holy Cross Parishioners who contribute to the Sunday offertory by electronic means. It is convenient and easy. Please visit our website and click on "Our Parish" and then the "Parish Giving" tab or contact the business office for assistance.

Christmas Mass and Confession Schedule

Confessions—Upper Church

Saturday, December 19 3:00—4:15 PM

Christmas Eve Masses

4:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Masses

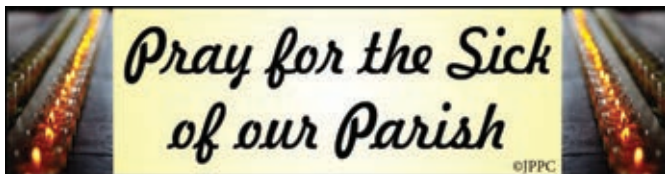
8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

New Year's Eve

4:30 PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day Mass

8:30 AM



Bill Burke	Joanne Marks
Sharon Burr	Lucy Mashura, S.F.O.
Lyndi Butler	Barbara McCusker
Margaret Cook	Lee Anne McGough
Stephen Collins	Dan Murphy
Samuel Dephillippo	Connie Myers
Nancy DeSanctis	Frances O'Callaghan
George Dickinson	Charlotte O'Leary
Janet Doherty	Paige O'Leary
Terrence (Terry) Gibson	Mary Ann Purcell
Nella Giordano	Mary Rafferty
Nicola Giordano	Rose Marie Santos
Donna Giorgio	Michael Sargent III
Carolyn Henderson	Theresa Sherwin
Steven Henderson	Joseph Sindoni
Stefanos Karas	Fr. Paul Stenson
Carole Kime	George Vrettos
Mary and Ken Kull	Lily Walker
Kendall Lambert	Nadia Waltanski
Rose Leto	Carter Walton
Patricia Lyons	
Helen Lyons	

Deadline for Parish Bulletin

Due to the Christmas and New Year Holidays, the Parish Bulletin submission deadlines have been changed. Please note that all materials for the Parish bulletin must be submitted to the Business Office as follows:

Publication date	Deadline
Dec. 19/20	Dec. 8
Dec. 26/27	Dec. 14
Jan. 2/3	Dec. 21

The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

"Have you heard of the Babe in the manger,

But not the Christ on the Cross?

Your redemption comes not from the Babe in the hay,

But the Christ who climbed on the Cross."

---From the Hymn "Babe in the Manger"



Casserole Drop-Off Date

The next drop-off is Wednesday, December 16, between 6:00 and 7:00 PM at the gym annex. Anyone wishing to join us can go to saintjohnshospice.org for recipes. Or just make a casserole that you like. Please mark the casserole with the date prepared. Call Connie Labowitz at 610-328-0599 with any questions. Thank you!

Happy Advent!

Visit with Jesus in
our
Adoration Chapel
9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Monday – Friday
Need info call
Ronnie 610.623.8412
or Office
610.626.3321

Reaching out to the Homebound

Pandemic restrictions and social distancing have had an impact on families, including our parish family here at Holy Cross. In many cases, quarantine has brought families together but it has pulled apart our parish family. We have lost touch with each other and are trying to reunite with those who have been unable to join us. If you know of anyone in the parish who is homebound, high-risk or has a strong need to be socially distant, please contact the parish office with the name, address and phone number, so that we can reconnect with our parish family.

Our Lady of the Holy Cross, pray for us.

Welcome our Newly Baptized in 2020

Isla Elizabeth Brennan

Reece Colleen Bruton

Conner Robert Cerulli

Rylee Rose Cirard

Addison Rose Coutts

Hunter Vincent Dowrick

Cayden Anthony Giorgio

Grace Haley Grenier

Jamison David Halbing

Grayson Thomas Hutton

Mang Hoi Margaret Kim

Grayson Richard Kubeck

Jessica Madison Small

Cardinal O'Hara High School

Our Parish recently received notifications of the performance of our high school students at the end of the first quarter. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence.

Students who achieved first honors include: Aminata Gogra '23, Mia Macciocca '23, Rebecca McVeigh '23 and Anthony Yost '23.

Among those earning second honors were the following students from our parish: Angelina Grandizio '21, Alexa Mazzola '21, Marissa Glick '23, Caitlin Henzel '23, Gavin LeSage '23, Emma Taylor '23, Xavier Tran '23 and William Donnelly '24.



Food Pantry Update

Our volunteers and neighbors in-need have no words to express our immense gratitude and sincere appreciation to all of you.

Thanks to all of you (our parishioners), our volunteers, Holy Cross Knights of Columbus (KofC), our school children, the Springfield Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, St. Kevin, St. Francis, Our Lady of Fatima, First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Clifton Heights, Acme and SVDP Delco Food Bank. We were able to distribute essential food items and Thanksgiving trimmings. During the month of November, our little pantry provided turkeys or chickens to over 200 families.

If you know any Delco residents who are in need of food, please let them know that we are open every Wednesday from 3:30 to 6 PM, directly behind Holy Cross school.

God Bless All of you. We have so much to be thankful for.....

Your Friends from the St. Vincent dePaul Society Food Pantry Team



Three Parish Book Club

The Three Parish Book Club will meet on Wednesday, December 30, at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Members will discuss *Rediscover the Saints* by Matthew Kelly.

The book for January is *The Worn Out Woman* by Steve Stephens and Alice Gray.

The book for February is *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom.

For more information, please contact Joy Van Berg at 610-328-2095 or joyvanberg@gmail.com

St. Augustine Parish, Philadelphia

Presents:

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About The Sacraments But Were Afraid To Ask

Event: Zoom discussion on “Everything You Always Wanted To Know About The Sacraments But Were Afraid To Ask!” Please join St. Augustine Parish (Philadelphia) as we host three virtual discussions during Advent on the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Did you ever wonder if babies who die without Baptism go to Limbo/Hell? What does it mean to receive the Holy Spirit in Confirmation? What is meant that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist? We will discuss and answer these and other questions you might have regarding the three “Sacraments of Initiation.” Join us and our special guest participants via Zoom on the dates and times listed!

12/15 – Confirmation – Meghan Cokeley, Director of the Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

12/22 – Eucharist – Fr. G. Dennis Gill, Director, Office for Divine Worship and Pastor of the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia

More info: Please email Jacob Marquart, O.F.S. at staugustineparish09@gmail.com or call (215) 627-1838 to submit your questions.

To register for the December 15 meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEkd-6hqz4pG9OCrVBB11V5xCcvxHAuPQga>

To register for the December 22 meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtfu6srzkrGdVUekSeWWBTBr-SkMCIXv8>



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