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Parish and School Staff

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Steven W. Kiernan, Pastor
Deacon Thomas Taylor

PARISH OFFICE

(610)626-3321

contactus@holycrosscatholics.org

Theresa Carey, Business Manager
Donna Berg, Parish Secretary
Betty McIntyre, Safe Environment Coordinator
Andrew Ryan, Bulletin Editor

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

(610)-626-1057

PREPHolyCross@gmail.com

Kelly Meliti, Director of Religious Education
Linda Ryan, Administrative Assistant

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

(610)-626-1709

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Daniel Salvatore, Principal
Ellen Spurrier, Enrollment/Tuition Manager
Sheila Moeller, Receptionist

PARISH MUSIC MINISTRY

holycrossmus@gmail.com

Grete Ingalls, Music Director

Parish Communication

To receive e-mail and text updates from the parish, text
holycrossdelco to 84576.

Mass Schedule

Sunday Masses

Saturday: 4:30 pm

Sunday: 8:30 & 11:00 am

Daily Mass

Tuesday-Friday: 8:30 am

Holy Day & Holiday Masses

As Announced

Sacrament of Penance

Saturday: 3:30-4:15 pm

or by appointment

Parish Devotions

Holy Rosary

Tuesday-Friday after Mass

Adoration Chapel

Monday-Friday 9am-7pm

Chapel located in back of rectory

Sacraments

Sacrament of Baptism

2nd and 4th Sundays at 12 noon

*Please call the office to schedule
the baptism of children. Parents and
godparents must attend a Baptism
Preparation Session.*

Sacrament of the Sick

Please call the parish office or
speak to the priest after Mass to
request the Anointing of the Sick.
If in a hospital or nursing home,
please ask the staff to notify the
parish that covers that facility.

Sacrament of Matrimony

Couples looking to get married at
Holy Cross should contact the
pastor at least six months before
the intended wedding date to
discuss marriage preparations and
schedule the wedding.

Holy Communion for the Homebound

Please call the parish office.

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00

Closed Fridays, Holidays and Holy Days

Office is located in the back of the church building



FROM THE PASTOR

Last December, Tom O'Leary from the O'Leary Funeral Home came up to me one day and said we have to put lights on the big tree by the gym. I looked at the tree, which is around twice as tall as the school, and said "that one? How in the world are you going to do that?" He said he'll take care of it, and the funeral home will pay for the lights and installation. I said "sure, go for it" while thinking "yeah right." Fast forward eleven months. I completely forgot about the idea until Tom contacted me to say he's got a tree guy lined up and he wants to make sure we're still good. Sure enough, the first week of December, a bucket truck shows up with a few tree climbers and electricians and I'm not sure how many strands of lights (I think it's in the neighborhood of 3,000). They figure out how to plug everything in and start working on stringing the lights. It took a few days, and the tree was so high that the bucket couldn't reach, so there was actually a tree-climber climbing up the trunk of the tree to put the lights in place by hand. It was a lot of work and a big effort.

But the result is beautiful and impressive! The tree will be lit in the evenings through the Christmas season. Stop by to admire it and take some pictures. Lots of people have commented about it and have been saying "great idea," etc. I take no credit for the idea or the implementation; that all belongs across the street. On behalf of the parish, a huge **THANK YOU** to the **O'Leary Funeral Home** for sponsoring the lights and to **CPL Tree Service** for rigging up the lights and bringing a big tribute to the beauty of this season to our parish!

A reminder for next week about Masses and our obligations as Catholics. We have an obligation to attend Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent and an obligation to attend Mass for Christmas, which essentially means two Masses in two days. The usual Sunday schedule will be in effect for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and the same schedule in effect for Christmas. So in theory, you can come at 8:30 both Sunday and Monday and be perfectly fine. Or you can attend the 4:30 on Saturday and the 11:00 on Christmas Day and not step foot on this campus at all on Sunday the 24th. Or you can come to the 11:00 and then the 4:30 on the 24th and fulfill both obligations in one day. What you can't do is come to the 4:30 on Sunday and say that counts for both obligations. There's no "two for one" or "double dipping" permitted.

That being said, because Sunday the 24th is going to be a rather busy day for many people, in order to make it easier for people to fulfill their obligations to worship God and lighten the burden a bit, we're going to celebrate the Sunday morning Masses on the 24th more simply than normal. We'll dispense with the music and singing at the morning Masses, and I'll try to keep the homily short. Note, I said "try." No representations or warranties are expressed or implied herein. But hopefully a simpler celebration will allow us to honor the Sunday of Advent while still honoring the busy reality of Christmas Eve day for most people. So, see you next week!

3rd Sunday of Advent



Reading I: Isaiah 61: 1-2a, 10-11

The prophet is anointed for preaching and enlightenment, so for example, the Israelites are like "prisoners led out of darkness to light." A Jubilee year is proclaimed.

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

The people are to rejoice, always with prayer and thanksgiving in their attitude. Paul blesses the community.

The Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

The Baptist is not the Messiah, as he makes clear. But he is a witness for the Messiah, as he both points out Jesus as the "Lamb of God" and sends his disciples to meet Jesus and ask Him questions.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

8:30 AM - No Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:30 AM - Alice Robinson

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:30 AM - Christiana DeFelice

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:30 AM - Tom Bunting

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:30 AM - Bill O'Leary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:30 AM - No Mass

4:30 PM - For those Enrolled in the
Memorial Fund

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:30 AM - Margaret & James McNicholas
and Jim McFadden

11:00 AM - Nicole Gallo

4:30 PM - Priests' Intentions

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp
intention is for:

Church: Sam Gibson

Chapel: Neil McCrossen



COLLECTION INFORMATION

Weekly Need \$13,350

Weekly Collection, December 10

Total \$7,316

Electronic \$2,892

Basket & Mail-Ins \$4,424

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Consiglia Borrelli	Richard McCullough
Lyndi Butler	Larry McCusker
Mary Ann Carroll	Francis Murray
George Dickinson	Charlotte O'Leary
Bob Frankenberger	Paige O'Leary
Dawn Gibbons	Katherine Patrone
Carolyn Henderson	Mary Rafferty
Steven Henderson	Ronnie Sidebottom
Jimmy Keating	Joseph Sindoni
Natalie Giorgio Kitts	Adeline Sulpizio
Ken Kull	Jean Super
Mary Kull	Valerie Thompson
Kendall Lambert	Betty Tomczyk
Alice Loftus	Rosemarie Colaberdino
Deacon Joe Gousie	Madalyn Parr
Lee Anne McGough	Carter Claire Walton
Joann Marks	Mike Calbertta
Maryanne McCauley	Alexander Passquini
Matthew Bannon	Melissa Dunsee
Mary Ann Nero	Mildred Mancini
Jack McGough	Susan Cortese
Bill Homony	Andrea Emilia Bernabey

The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

Today is Gaudete Sunday. In the middle of our Advent preparations, we are called to rejoice in hope!

"Remarkably, the Lord made you in His very own image. That means your life is sacred. It has value. You have been made by love and with love. It is hard to believe, but you look a lot like God." ---Dr Allen Hunt

Casserole Drop-Off Date

The next drop-off is Tuesday, December 19th between 4:00 and 5:00 PM at the gym annex. The casseroles are appreciated by the homeless who visit St. John's Hospice at 12th and Race St., Philadelphia. You can make any casserole that you like. Please mark the casserole with the date prepared. Call Connie Labowitz at 610-328-0599 with any questions. Thank you!

Church Cleaning

The next Church cleaning will take place on Tuesday, 12/19/2023, after the 8:30 am Mass. Extra hands are always welcome.

Home Care Needed

Home Care Needed to stay overnight with an elderly woman 2 or 3 nights per week.

The elderly woman generally takes care of her own needs. The Home Care worker would need to do light housework. Please call (484) 343-6610 for details.

Bulletin Deadlines for Christmas

Due to early submission deadlines for the bulletin over the Christmas Holidays please submit and articles for the bulletin by 4:00PM at least 10 days prior to the Sunday requested.

Bulletin	Due Date
December 17	Wednesday, December 6
December 24	Wednesday, December 13
December 31	Wednesday, December 20

75th Anniversary Sale

75th anniversary t-Shirts, crew sweatshirts and hoodies are available for sale in the Business Office. Prices for t-shirts range from \$16.00 - \$18.00 and sweatshirts range from \$22.00 - \$27.00 depending on size and style.

Magnets are available for \$5.00 and Christmas ornaments for \$10.00.

Pay by cash or check.

Business Office hours are 9:00am – 4:00pm Monday through Thursday, closed 12:00-1:00pm for lunch.

Any questions, please call the office at 610-626-3321.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner

On the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe, Tuesday, December 12, please join us for dinner at 6 PM at the Paxon Hollow Country Club in Broomall. Your only cost is any donation to St. Pius X Respect Life. We celebrate Mass at St. Pius X Church at 5 PM. Priests, nuns, children and senior citizens are always free! Mark Houck, who was arrested in front of his wife and seven children by 15 FBI agents, will be our main speaker. His crime...trying to pray a rosary with his 12 year old son in front of Planned Parenthood. For reservations, call John Williamson's office at 610-446-5600 or email jpw0077@gmail.com.

School News

Our students are hard at work in their academic studies and perform virtuous and charitable works to help others. At our First Friday Mass we acknowledged our students who received the Virtue Award of Respect for the Month of November. The virtue for December is Generosity: Giving without counting the cost. To help practice and strengthen this virtue, we currently have charitable opportunities writing cards for the elderly which will allow students to complete works of mercy and offer it to God.

Santa Clause came to visit Holy Cross students on Wednesday, 12/06, to celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas. He and his helpers left a small treat for every student.

Friday, December 8, our students received their first trimester report cards. We are so very proud of all the hard work from our students and their teachers.

As we wait in anticipation for the coming of our Savior, I pray for all of you to have a wonderful and joyous Advent and Christmas Season.

FORMED

A Free Gift to you from Holy Cross Parish
PROGRAMS – MOVIES – AUDIO - BOOKS



Here are just 2 of the many programs available for December. For families with kids, we highly recommend a series that shows fun ways to incorporate our Catholic faith anytime with traditions and activities, called "Catholic All Year At Home with Kendra Tierney." Signing up for FORMED is EASY and FREE!

1. Just go to FORMED.org or download the FORMED app
2. Enter your ZIP code and select "Holy Cross" from the drop-down menu and press "Next"
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED.

No password is needed and you will have full access to the site. ENJOY!

Scrip Program

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Have questions about getting started? Call the ShopWithScrip Customer Support team at 1-800-727-4715 option 3.

Three Parish Book Club

Due to the Christmas holiday, the Book Parish Book Club will meet next at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at the Holy Cross Church Parish Center. Members will share reading recommendations and will discuss both the December and January selections. You need not have read the selected book(s) to attend the meeting. If you would like more information, or if you would like to join us, please contact Joy Van Berg at joyvanberg@gmail.com or at 610 328-2095.

December

This Is My Body by Bishop Robert Barron

January

My Anointing Echoes by Father Douglas Mckay

February

In The School of the Holy Spirit by Jacques Phillippe

Winter Bible Study

The Holy Cross Bible Study Team will present a **FREE** 14 week deep-dive into the Gospel of Mark. We will concentrate on this single book of the Bible. Workbooks will be provided for this series. There will be short videos from Dr Tim Gray and valuable group discussions. Light refreshments will be served.

We will show this at 2 different times, so PICK THE TIME that is best for you. If you choose the Wednesday morning option we begin right after the 8:30 Mass, so please consider joining us for Mass that morning. Come a few minutes early to meet others and to get your seat. Please join us and bring a friend!

When: Mondays, November 6 thru February 19, 7:00 – 8:30

PM - in the Holy Cross Parish Center

Or: Wednesdays, November 8 thru February 21, 9:15 – 10:45

AM – in the Holy Cross Parish Center

--- Note: We will take 2 weeks off during the Christmas holidays

To save a seat or for more information, contact Pattie Stevens at pattiejstevens@comcast.net or 484.868.8571.

Food Pantry Update

Thanksgiving is fast approaching... we have so much to be grateful for... all of you, Our Holy Cross CCD students, St. Francis schoolchildren (who ran a food drive to benefit our pantry just last week). We recently received a significant donation from Acme Food Stores (please Thank an Acme cashier next time you shop at our Clifton Hgts. store), Buckley Cable, Americare, Mainline BMW, Devon Mercedes, Union Local 2011, and our many anonymous donors.. you know, it takes a village...

Some important dates this month...

On Nov. 12th, St. Francis SVDP and St. Kevins Knights of Columbus (and HC KofC will help) with collecting Thanksgiving food items to help our pantry.

On Nov. 15th, we will do our turkey distribution (while supplies last), and

On Nov. 22nd, the Pantry will be closed as our volunteers prepare for our own family meals.

If you are able, we need additional turkeys or chickens, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and items you would prepare for your families for the big day... If you are able to assist and unable to drop off, please call Ellie Epperson at 610-960-6989 and we will gladly arrange for your donation pickups. You can also drop off, we have bins outside the entrance of the pantry or you can hand deliver on Wed. 11/8 or 11/15 starting at 1 p.m.

Just a reminder, if you know anyone in need of food in Delco, please let them know we are open Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30.

In case we haven't told you lately, we Appreciate your prayers, generosity and your overall support.

God Bless All of You,

Your Friends from the SVDP Holy Cross Food Pantry Team

Eucharistic Adoration



The Eucharist is described in the Catechism as the "source and summit" of our faith. Finding the time to go to Adoration can be difficult. But if you can make it happen, committing to regular Adoration with an open heart can have some surprising results.

A Holy Hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament repairs for evils of the world. (St.John Paul II)

A Holy hour makes our souls more glorious and beautiful in heaven. (Mother Teresa)

The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host. (Venerable Fulton Sheen)

I ask everyone to intensify in love and devotion to the Eucharistic Jesus. (Pope Benedict XVI)

We are in need of visitors and hourly adorers to maintain our current adoration schedule. Please consider keeping Jesus company in our intimate chapel here at Holy Cross Parish which is open weekdays 9:00am to 7:00pm. For more information, call Eileen at 610.213-3369.



PATRISTICS 101

Apostolic and Ante-Nicene Fathers

THURSDAYS, JANUARY – JUNE 2024

8:00 - 9:15 PM ET

▶ LIVE ONLINE COURSE

In this course on the Fathers of the Church, we shall delve deeply into the writings of the first Christian centuries (up to the Council of Nicaea in 325) and become acquainted with such figures as St. Clement of Rome, St. Ignatius, St. Justin Martyr, St. Irenaeus, Tertullian, St. Cyprian, and Origen, and come to an appreciation of their specific genius and their legacy for our own generation. We shall also devote some time to the principles of the theological discipline of Patristics, which in turn will shed light on the usefulness of the Fathers in our own theological reflection.

 John Pepino, Ph.D.



Dr. John Pepino is a professor of Greek, Latin, History, and Patristics at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Nebraska. His Master's degree is in Classical Greek and Latin and his Doctorate is in the Fathers of the Church. He has published on the Fathers of Church and on contemporary Church History (particularly Vatican II and the liturgy in the twentieth century) in both scholarly and popular outlets.

To register, please visit InstituteofCatholicCulture.org/events

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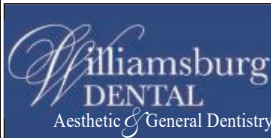
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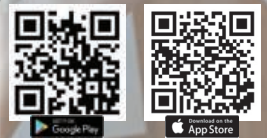
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