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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

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Welcome! Thank you for being here!

- If you are one of our faithful parishioners who is here every Sunday, thank you for your ongoing presence in our parish community.
- If you're a student enjoying the time between semesters, I hope you have a restful break. They don't seem to last nearly long enough.
- If you're a former parishioner who moved away and have come home to visit the family for the holidays, welcome home! I hope you have a wonderful visit, and hopefully we'll see you on your next trip.
- If you're here visiting friends or family, welcome to Holy Cross! Thank you for being with us today. You are always welcome anytime you're in town.
- If you're new to the area and coming to our church for the first time, welcome! Feel free to say hi after Mass and introduce yourself. I'll admit I'm not the best at remembering names, but it will still be nice to meet you.
- And finally...if you're someone who is a Holy Cross parishioner but maybe aren't here all that often, the rest of this column is for you! Please read on. Of course, everyone else is welcome to read what follows as well.

There is **NO** guilt trip here. Everyone has reasons to be here, and everyone has reasons for staying away. You have yours. Life is really busy. I work hard all week and want a day to relax. Mass is boring. My work/golf/football-watching schedule doesn't align with the Mass schedule. The music is lousy. The kids are involved in so many activities and sports that we just don't have time. I can pray to God on my own. My health isn't all that great, and it's hard to get out of the house. The homilies are too long. I'm angry at the Church or the parish because [person] did [something horrible]. I don't agree with what the Church teaches about [moral issue]. I'm confused from when they changed all the words, and I can barely say the word consubstantial, let alone understand what the heck it means. I'm angry at God because [point of suffering]. I don't really know what I believe, or even if I believe. I just kind of have fallen out of the habit. I did something wrong years ago, and I'm embarrassed or afraid to show my face in church.

Whatever your personal reason, I can't write anything here that would adequately address it. What I can do is ask and invite. What's your reason? How can we as a parish, or how can I as the pastor, help you through it? Let me know. Call me in the new year, and let's talk. Or send an e-mail to the parish. Seriously, I want to know what we can do. What I can do.

This year we celebrated 75 years as a parish. I want us to be here for another seventy-five and beyond. And I want to do what I can to ensure you are part of that journey to our sesquicentennial. (That means 150th anniversary. Oh, and consubstantial is a philosophical word to mean "of the same substance." That part of the creed was written in response to a heresy saying the Son was created and thus fundamentally different in essence from the Father. The response was no, He's of the same substance and thus equal to the Father in divinity—hence, consubstantial.)

On behalf of Deacon Tom and the parish staff, Merry Christmas to all! May God bless you abundantly in this holy time of year.

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7: 1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Here we have both an oracle of Nathan the prophet and a prayer of David the king, The throne of David shall endure forever.

Reading II: Romans 16: 25-27

This section is a doxology, or prayer of praise to the "only wise God", as the author puts it, who acts through Jesus Christ.

The Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

The wonderful mystery of the Annunciation of Mary, the First Joyful one of the Holy Rosary. Mary's Son will be, according to Archangel Gabriel, "the Most High" He will take the throne of David forever.

Masses for the Week

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

8:30 AM - Priests' Intentions

11:00 AM - Priests' Intentions

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:30 AM - No Mass

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:30 AM - Jeffrey Scolis (2nd Anniversary)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28

8:30 AM - Ken Murphy

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29

8:30 AM - Deceased Members of the
Walton & Devine Families

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

8:30 AM - No Mass

4:30 PM - Thomas & Margaret Walls

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:30 AM - Anthony & Pauline Fiscella

11:00 AM - For the People of the Parish

The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

"Hail and blessed be the hour and moment in which the Son of God was born of the most pure Virgin Mary, at midnight, in Bethlehem, in piercing cold. In that hour, vouchsafe O my God! to hear my prayer and grant my desires through the merits of Our Savior Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Amen." ---From an old prayerbook "A Christmas Novena"

May Jesus, Mary and Joseph bless you and all your loved ones this Christmas!

Sanctuary Lamps

This week's Sanctuary Lamp intention is for:

Church: Tom & Kitty McCormick

Chapel: Tom & Kitty McCormick

Collection Information

Weekly Collection, December 17

**Due to the Christmas Holiday
the numbers for the Sunday**

**Collection were not available at the
time of Bulletin submission.**

Pray for the Sick

Consiglia Borreli	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

Thank You

The Holy Cross Knights of Columbus wish to thank all of you who have recently supported our Pancake Breakfast, Pretzel Sale and Cemetery Blanket/Door Wreath Sale. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed to have so many who continually support us.

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.

Parish Book Club

The Three Parish Book Club will meet on December 28 at 7:00 in the Holy Cross Parish Center. Members discuss the month's selection and offer recommendations for other spiritual reading. If you would like to join us please contact Joy Van Berg at 610 328-2095 or at joyvanberg@gmail.com. You do not need to have read the month's selection to attend the meeting.

December

The Christmas Candle by Max Lucado

January

Daily Meditations with Saint Augustine John E. Rotelle O.S.A. ed.

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

St. Andrew's Nocturnal Adoration Society

The St. Andrew's Nocturnal Adoration Society of Drexel Hill will meet from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM on January 4th for adoration in the church. It is a wonderful way to start the New Year and all are welcome.

St. Francis Players Present Meredith Willson's "The Music Man!"

The St Francis Players are pleased to announce that our 2024 and 63rd Annual SFP Production will be Meredith Willson's "The Music Man". Come join us as Professor Harold Hill charms the residents of River City, Iowa to start a children's band and causes a whole lot of "Trouble"! We are thrilled to be able to bring back this timeless family classic to the St. Francis stage!

We will have six (6) performances held on 4/19, 4/20, 4/21 and 4/26, 4/27, and 4/28.

For more information regarding auditions and other special events regarding the St. Francis Players, please visit our website at www.stfrancisplayers.org

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.

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!

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.



INSTITUTE OF
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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 the 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](https://www.instituteofcatholicculture.org/events)

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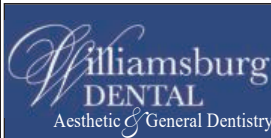
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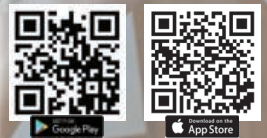
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