

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

651 East Springfield Road • Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064

DECEMBER 29, 2019 • THE HOLY FAMILY

Parish Office / Rectory 610-626-3321 • 610-626-3322
 Parish School 610-626-1709
 Religious Education 610-626-1057
 Convent 610-626-2491
 Pastoral Minister 610-259-8266
 Music Director 215-431-2883
 Website www.holycrosscatholics.org
 E-mail contactus@holycrosscatholics.org

Rev. Eugene C. Wilson Pastor
 Rev. Edward C. Kelly Resident/Faculty COHS
 Rev. Thomas J. Furey St. Joseph Villa/Retired
 Deacon Robert Frankenberger Retired
 Deacon Joseph N. Gousie Retired
 Mrs. Theresa Carey Business Manager
 Mrs. Judy Vacca Pastoral Minister
 Dr. Mary Rose Worriow Principal
 Mrs. Kelly Meliti Director of Religious Education
 Mr. Timothy Reilly Music Director

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 4:30 PM
 Sunday, Upper Church 8:30 and 11:00 AM
 Holy Day Vigil (night before Holy Day) 7:00 PM
 Holy Day 8:30 AM
 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 8:30 AM
 Thursday No Mass
 Friday 12:15 PM

NEW PARISHIONERS

All Catholics living in the parish should register. Our Welcome Center 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)
 Saturday & Sunday Closed

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, Lower Church: 3:30 to 4:15 PM

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 the Rectory of Mrs. Judy Vacca, Pastoral Minister, when a parishioner is hospitalized or home bound.

I preferred the blender. It was something practical. Besides, I, myself, could use it to make a milkshake once in a while as well. Very practical indeed! My cousin thought otherwise. "We're going to get a picture," she said, *What? A picture?* "Yes," she said, "a portrait of you and me." *Why? Why not a blender,* I asked. This was well before the days of cell phones, selfies, and people's daily postings of their pics and personal lives. "No," said my cousin, who lived with us at the time and was four years my elder. "We're going to get a portrait for Christmas from us to your mother." She was adamant. I had no choice. My milkshake maker would have to wait. Back in those ancient times, people actually had to go to a photography studio to have portraits made. The studio to which we went was in Sears. I appeared in the living room wearing, of course, my hoodie. My cousin said, "No way!" "Shirt and tie," she demanded. I stammered back to my room muttering under my breath. I reappeared in a white collared shirt adorned with pastel colored flowers. Around my neck was a navy blue knit tie with a fat knot and a square bottom. Fashionable for the time, with my afro hair style (don't ask), I looked like I could have been a member of the class in *Welcome Back Kotter!* "Perfect," my cousin quipped. Several days later, we picked up the portrait and purchased a frame. At home, I let my cousin wrap our meager present. I've never been very good at wrapping. Come Christmas Day, I was somewhat embarrassed. Instead of a beautiful blender, all that I had for my mother was this simple framed portrait of my cousin and some guy that looked like one of the Sweat Hogs. I could see that my mother was upset when she unwrapped it. I started to apologize. *Mom, I'm sorry! I wanted to get you a blender!* She just started to dab at her teary eyes saying, "no...no" as she headed away to the kitchen. My father waved me off and followed her. I said to my cousin, *See, I told you! We should have gotten her the blender!* She shook her head, rolled her eyes, and gave me that mysterious "girl look" that sent a shiver down my spine. "Your mother's not upset. She's happy. That's why she's crying!" *What? Happy? Why? It's just a picture of us!* My mother then returned with my father. She kissed and hugged us both. "It's the best present ever," she said as my father just stood there and beamed. My teenage mind was still somewhat confused. *It was just a picture, wasn't it?* That would be the last Christmas with my mother before God called her home, yet that portrait would remain on the shelf for many, many years thereafter. That portrait was forever etched in my mother's mind that Christmas Day and that Christmas Day is forever etched in mine. This Christmas Season will involve many pictures taken. Cherish them, but cherish even more the memories made. You might just find yourself shedding a tear or two—not in sadness, but in joy, longing for that Eternal Christmas Day when we'll gather with all of our family and friends for that simple family portrait with Jesus Himself, right there in the middle (maybe even sporting a hoodie), a Holy Family Photo one might say.

Peace!
Fr. Wilson



Mass Intentions

MONDAY	DECEMBER 30
8:30 AM	FRANKIE MC NULTY
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 31
8:30 AM	RICHARD KANIEWSKI
4:30 PM	ANTHONY & PAULINE FISCELLA
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 1
8:30 AM	JOHN BOYLE
THURSDAY	JANUARY 2
	NO MASS
FRIDAY	JANUARY 3
12:15 PM	DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE MORGAN FAMILY
SATURDAY	JANUARY 4
8:30 AM	EDWARD & HELEN COLLINS
NEXT WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS	
SATURDAY	JANUARY 4
4:30 PM	KELLY WISELEY
SUNDAY	JANUARY 5
8:30 AM	PEOPLE OF HOLY CROSS
11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CASCIANO FAMILY

The power of prayer!

PRAY FOR HEALING

©IVPC

Lyndi Butler	Joanne Marks
Margaret Cook	Barbara McCusker
Maryanne Convery	Lee Anne McGough
Stephen Collins	Thomas Miller
Samuel Dephillipo	Dan Murphy
Sharon Diemer	Connie Myers
Kathleen Dixon	Frances O'Callaghan
Janet Doherty	Charlotte O'Leary
Lillian Donahue	Paige O'Leary
Mary Ann Farrell	Laura Palermo
Nicola Giordano	Francis Romano
Donna Giorgio	Jim Sandusky
Carolyn Henderson	Rose Marie Santos
Steven Henderson	Michael Sargent III
Stefanos Karas	Joseph Sindoni
Carole Kime	Adeline Sulpizio
Mary and Ken Kull	George Vrettos
Kendall Lambert	Lily Walker
Rose Leto	Nadia Waltanski
Patricia Lyons	Carter Walton
Helen Lyons	

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

Prayer: Father, help us to live as the Holy Family, united in respect and love.

Devotion to the Holy Family started slowly, became more widespread, and was made a feast day for the entire Church in 1921. The images we have of the Holy Family might seem a little intimidating at first. Who can live up to that ideal? It helps to remember that besides being the Son of God, Jesus was fully human, as were Mary and Joseph. That means their family had struggles and difficulties, too. After our rush to get ready for and celebrate Christmas Day, the feast of the Holy Family is a great day to spend in prayer and relaxation.



THE CORNER

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"Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not the expensive gifts that call for time and money. We can communicate this joy simply: with a smile, a kind gesture, a little help, forgiveness. And the joy we give will certainly come back to us. Let us pray that this presence of the liberating joy of God shines forth in our lives."

—Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI



There is a need for additional volunteers to assist with the counting of the Sunday collection. Each counter works with two others and is scheduled about once every four or five weeks. For additional information, please contact the Business Office at 610-626-3321. Thank you very much for considering this request.

New Year's Eve

4:30 PM Vigil Mass

New Year's Day

8:30 AM



Principal's Corner

This is the last weekend of the 2019 year! On behalf of the students, faculty and staff, I want to wish you a Happy New Year! It is hard to believe that the year 2020 is upon us. I thought that by now, we would be flying around in sky mobiles, but that has not happened yet!

Our registration for the new school year will take place the last week in January. Please check the bulletin and Principal's corner for more information. We would love to have your child(ren) here to join our school family.

Have a great week! God bless you!

Dr. WorriLOW

IHM CONFERENCE CENTER

401 S. Bryn Mawr Ave.

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Movie with Meaning: "The Soloist" - Wednesday, 1-22-20
10:00 AM and 1:00 PM (if necessary) - Stipend: \$20
(includes lunch). Lunch is served for both groups at 12 Noon.

Columnist Steve Lopez is at a dead end. The newspaper business is in an uproar, his marriage has fallen apart, and he can't entirely remember what he loved about his job in the first place. While walking through Los Angeles' Skid Row, he sees the bedraggled figure of Nathaniel Ayers, pouring his world into a two-stringed violin. This sets Steve on an unexpected quest to change the life of this young artist. But as he fights to save Ayers' life, he begins to realize that it is Ayers who is profoundly changing his own. Starring Jamie Fox and Robert Downey, Jr.



Holy Cross Development Fundraiser

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- * Each Calendar has a 4 Digit Number*
- * Each Calendar costs \$50*
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 - Holidays — \$100*
- * If your assigned number matches the PA nightly Pick 4 daily number (straight match) you win the Cash Prize on the calendar for that day.*
- * Prize winnings will be distributed weekly to all winners — checks will be mailed to name and address that is registered for that calendar.*

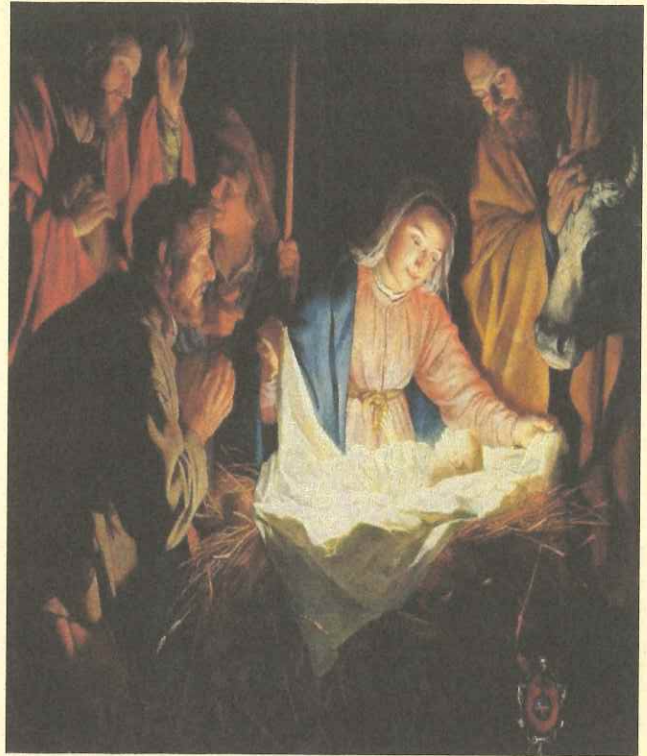
For questions, contact:

hcdevelopmentfund@gmail.com

The Three Parish

*Adult Faith Formation Team
Announces an Upcoming
Scripture Study Program!*

*Scott Hahn and Jeff Cavin's
Our Father's Plan*



Salvation History

*From Genesis To
the Catholic Church*

Beginning Thursdays — 9:15 AM

January 6 — February 16

Parish Center of Holy Cross

To register, contact

Elizabeth Austin @

elizabethaustin@gmail.com

December 29 — Feast of the Holy Family

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Last October I was honored by an invitation to preach at a suburban Philadelphia parish for its annual Forty Hours Devotion. I was warmly received by the pastor and his staff. I soon learned from the parish secretary that she and others on the staff had all attended the parish school together. That coincidence added to their camaraderie at the lunch table. That same secretary had opined that for them “this town is the center of the universe.”

That description of a certain beloved place could easily have applied at a unique time to a tiny, dusty village called Nazareth. It was God’s choice for at least 30 years as “the center of the universe.” We know why. But that very idea would have been laughable to Our Lord’s contemporaries. For all its subsequent fame and ultimate glory, little Nazareth is not even mentioned in the whole Old Testament. As for that prophecy we read today, scholars tell us that St. Matthew was using a little creative imagination based on texts that only hinted at the town’s name.

On this Holy Family Sunday, dare I take that heartfelt description of a town and apply it to our families? They are, or should be, the center of our little universes, should they not? I know that’s a risky thing to say, seeing how so many families struggle these days. Just staying in touch is sometimes difficult. Staying together often develops into a challenge. Using our cell phones, tablets and computers helps. Social media may ease the strain.

But none of those can overcome the devastating effects of divorce. Skipping over other possible obstacles, there is also that anger and resentment that arises sometimes once the will of a parent or other relative is presented by the family lawyer. The Reconciliation Room walls in many Catholic church could tell you more.

Yet all those obstacles are not insuperable. This is especially so when we meet them with good will and open minds, topped off by the attitude Jesus taught by word and example about our dealings with other residents of our planet. Add to that St. Paul’s “recipe” for right relations in this weekend’s Second Reading.

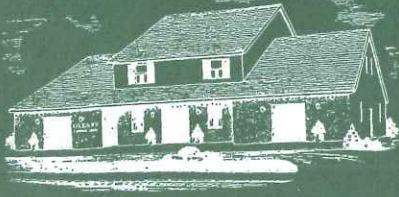
We know that even the Holy Family had its difficulties. There were those inconvenient travel orders given to St. Joseph which he met with his exemplary obedience. The burden was shared by a pregnant Blessed Mother. Later, both parents were faced with the fright and temporary helplessness of a lost child. Then came that boy Child’s upsetting question: “*Did you not know that I had to be about My Father’s business?*” To these we add the presumed early death of St. Joseph. Then there were the seven sorrows foretold by Simeon of Mary, leading to her place at the foot of the Cross.

One substantial help for all our families amid the present social upheaval in our Western culture is that attributed to the late Fr. Patrick Peyton: “*The family that prays together stays together.*” It’s not an outdated slogan. I even spotted that recently on a roadside billboard. I believe it’s worth a try. To which I add that that’s the real beauty of a family at Mass. I admire the parents of babies and toddlers, who bring them to church nicely dressed and ready for prayer, despite the work that must entail.

While we all work to heal our center, there’s always humor to soften the edges of the effort. Here is a sampling of family-based humor from three past comedians. From the late Bob Hope: “*I grew up with six brothers. That’s how I learned to dance—waiting for the bathroom!*” Buddy Hackett: “*As a child, my family’s menu consisted of two choices: take it or leave it.*” And finally Sam Levenson: “*The reason grandparents and grandchildren get along so well is that they have a common enemy.*”

Today, take some time to enjoy being part of a family.





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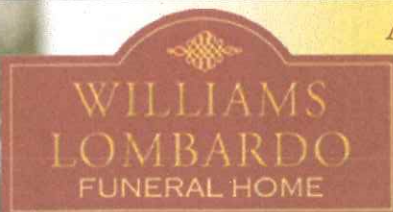
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