



Sharing our enthusiasm for our faith; Nurturing love of others; Leading people to Christ. 651 E. Springfield Road Springfield, PA 19064 holycrosscatholics.org

Parish and School Staff

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Steven W. Kiernan, Pastor Deacon Thomas Taylor

PARISH OFFICE (610)626-3321

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PREPHolyCross@gmail.com Kelly Meliti, Director of Religious Education Linda Ryan, Administrative Assistant

Holy CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL (610)-626-1709 hcscrusaders.com

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 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.

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.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2023



FROM THE PASTOR

I always feel like Advent as a season is really short and goes by too quickly. This year, the "Fourth Week" of Advent is only about 16 hours long, which makes the season even shorter and go by even faster.

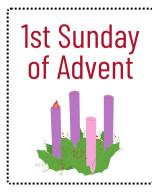
We have extra opportunities for the **Sacrament of Penance during Advent**. The Sacrament will be celebrated Thursday mornings from 7am-8am (Dec. 7, 14, and 21). There will also be an opportunity on Monday, December 18, from 7-8pm, along with our normal Saturday schedule.

This Friday, December 8, is the **Feast of the Immaculate Conception** of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a **Holy Day of Obligation** and the national patronal feast of the United States of America. Masses are at 8:30 am and 7:00 pm.

Speaking of Holy Days, let's address question that tends to come up when Christmas falls on a Monday, which of course means Christmas Eve is Sunday night. Every time this happens, people tend to ask whether going to Mass on the evening of Sunday the 24th counts for both Sunday and Christmas. The answer is no.

There is an obligation to attend Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent. And there is an obligation to attend Mass for Christmas. That requires attending two Masses; there's no "double dipping." Here at Holy Cross, Masses for the 4th Sunday of Advent will be Saturday, 12/23 at 4:30 and Sunday, 12/24 at 8:30 and 11:00. Masses for Christmas will be Sunday, 12/24 at 4:30 and Monday, 12/25 at 8:30 and 11:00. (Note that we have had a later evening Mass on Christmas Eve the past couple years, but we are unable to do that this year. That Mass was the lowest attended of all the Christmas Masses, and we are limited to the number of Masses a priest can say in a day.) So now that we've pre-emptively answered that question, please make your plans now to celebrate both the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Day amid all the other celebrations of Christmas.

Also, make sure you plan to join us next Sunday for our second annual Lessons and Carols concert. The choir is working quite hard to give us a beautiful performance. You won't want to miss it!



Reading I: Isaiah 63:16b-17; 64: 2-7

A wish for Yahweh to come down from heaven and help cleanse the nation of its guilt and sins.

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9

Paul thanks the Lord for all the gifts the community has received. He asks for His help in keeping them firm in the faith.

The Gospel: Mark 13: 33-37

Jesus warns His listeners to be alert, for no one knows the time of the Lord's return. Watchfulness regarding the Kingdom of God is essential.



MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:30 AM - No Mass

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:30 AM - Joseph A. Scolis

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30 AM - Maryann Redding

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:30 AM - Mary Ann Purcell

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

8:30 AM - Mary Ann Purcell

7:00 PM - For the People of Holy Cross

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:30 AM - No Mass

4:30 PM - Francesco & Annuziata Mazza

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:30 AM - Nicole Gallo

11:00 AM - For the People of Holy Cross

The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

AWAKE!! Advent is here, and it is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time, and the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas. He is our best, and vet most humble Christmas present. So as St Paul says, "It is the hour now for you to awake from sleep. For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." ---Romans 13:11

SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp intention is for:

Church: Victoria Cortez Chapel: Merci Kenny

COLLECTION INFORMATION

Weekly Need	\$13,350
Weekly Collection, November 26	
Total	\$6,943
Electronic	\$2,748
Basket & Mail-Ins	\$4,195

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Consiglia Borreli Lyndi Butler Mary Ann Carroll George Dickinson Bob Frankenberger Paige O'Leary Dawn Gibbons Carolyn Henderson Steven Henderson Jimmy Keating Natalie Giorgio Kitts Adeline Sulpizio Ken Kull Mary Kull Kendall Lambert Alice Loftus Deacon Joe Gousie Joann Marks Matthew Bannon Mary Ann Nero Jack McGough Andrea Emilia Bernabey

Richard McCullough Larry McCusker Francis Murray Charlotte O'Leary Katherine Patrone Mary Rafferty Ronnie Sidebottom Joseph Sindoni Jean Super Valerie Thompson Betty Tomczyk Rosemarie Colaberdino Madalyn Parr Lee Anne McGough Carter Claire Walton Mike Calbertta Maryanne McCauley Alexander Passquini Melissa Dunsee Mildred Mancini Susan Cortese



Blanket & Wreath Sale

The Holy Cross Knights of Columbus will be holding their Annual Cemetery Blanket/Door Wreath sale from Sunday, 11/19/23 until Sunday, 12/10/23. Blankets/Wreaths will again be \$35 each this year. Pick up will be on Saturday, 12/16/23, in the Holy Cross School parking lot at Springfield Rd and Bishop Ave from 8:30am till 11:00am. Checks are made out to "Holy Cross KOC" and can be mailed to Cemetery Blankets, c/o Andy Grajek, 492 Indian Rock Dr, Springfield, Pa 19064. Contact Andy at 610-761-9020 or <u>andygra44@yahoo.com</u> for any questions or more information.

We Need Some Helping Hands!

Sunday, December 17, after the 11:00 AM Mass, members of Holy Cross Parish will be assembling the Nativity scene in the Church. Anyone who is interested in helping is welcome to come. Please arrive after the 11:00 Mass. Thank You!

Giving Trees

We will have two trees again this year. On Mary's side the recipients will be the clients and children of the Delaware County Pregnancy Center in Chester.(dcpcchester.org) On St. Joseph's side, the recipients will be the elderly poor residents at the Holy Family Home which is run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. (littlesistersofthe <u>poorphiladelphia.org</u>) Please take an ornament with a request on it. Items can be put into gift bags with names attached.

The recipients of both places were so thrilled with your gifts last year! Thank you for your generosity!

The LAST DAY FOR BRINGING GIFTS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th

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.

Due Date
Wednesday, December 6
Wednesday, December 13
Wednesday, December 20

Monthly Delco Pro-Life Meeting

Please join us for our monthly pro-life meeting on Wednesday, December 6, at 7 PM at St. Francis of Assisi Rectory in Springfield. Entrance is from the parking lot down the outside steps. Upcoming events: our dinner for the mothers and babies at The Mothers' Home in Darby on Monday, December 11 and Our Lady of Guadalupe Dinner on Tuesday, December 12 at Paxon Hollow Country Club. Your prayers and suggestions are welcome. Jesus, protect and save the unborn.

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. Holy Cross Parish and Choir welcome everyone to its second annual

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



to be celebrated in the Church Sunday, December 10 at 4 pm. 651 East Springfield Road Springfield, PA 19064

Light refreshments courtesy of the Knights of Columbus will follow the festival in the school gym. Admission is free.

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.

Students Excel at Msgr. Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast Catholic High School

Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students for the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year. We are particularly proud of those

for the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year. We are partic students

who have demonstrated academic excellence.

The following students received first honors: Sean Erickson, Class of 2026 received First Honors

Salvatore Squillacioti, Class of 2026 received First Horiors Salvatore Squillacioti, Class of 2025, Sophia Megill, Class of 2026 and Zachary Hassinger, Class of 2027 all received Second Honors. Congratulations!

Students Excel at Cardinal O'Hara High School

Our parish recently received notification of the performance of our high school students on the end of the 1st quarter. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic

the ist quarter, we are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence.

Students who achieved first honors include: Harry Donnelly '24, Sophia Campbell '27, Daniel Kull '27, Alyssa Zebuski '27.

Among those earning second honors were the following students from our parish: William Donnelly '24, Rocco DiMario '27, Hayden Ganley '27.

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 dropdown 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!

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 <u>pattiejstevens@comcast.net</u> or 484.868.8571.

School News

November is here and so are the sights and sounds of autumn. We have had a great month with our clubs running and giving our students some wonderful activities and possibilities to participate at school. Our faculty, staff and volunteers are happy to bring back old and new clubs for our students. We are enjoying the extra time we get to spend with our students as they learn and explore these new opportunities.

The virtue that we are asking students to practice this month is Respect: The process or result of following rules to fairly judge and listen to authority. We have wonderful students here at Holy Cross and we know this will not be a hard task for them to follow.

This year each student will have the opportunity to contribute a spiritual donation of a Work of Mercy or good deed to write down and offer up to God at the Thanksgiving Prayer Basket. This is something special for all our students to participate in so they can have an opportunity to be closer to the Lord by offering their personal Work of Mercy or good deed.

We are also continuing the tradition of our Thanksgiving food drive to help the less fortunate. Each student, if they can, is asked to make a donation of a boxed or canned food for the Parish Food Pantry.

Giving Tuesday is here. If you would like to make a donation to our school, please see our website <u>www.hcscrusaders.com</u>

Thank you to all parishioners who help to support our wonderful school. We continue to pray for all of you each day.

Scrip Program

Support our organization while you shop! The easy way to raise money, buy gift cards and earn for Holy Cross School.

Start earning with the RaiseRight mobile app today or fill out a Scrip Order Form and return to the Business Office. The Scrip Order Forms are available at the entrances of the church OR Download the RaiseRight mobile app from the app store using your smartphone or tablet or go to <u>RaiseRight.com</u> on your computer.

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

Three Parish Book Club

The next meeting of the Book Club will take place on Wednesday, November 29 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center at Holy Cross Church. At each meeting, members discuss the month's selection and offer suggestions of additional books for spiritual reading. We invite you to join us for conversation and refreshments. You need not have read the selected book to attend the meeting. For more information, please contact Joy Van Berg at 610 328-2095 or at joyvanberg@gmail.com.

November Saint John Paul The Great by Jason Evert

December This Is My Body by Bishop Robert Barron



ST. MARY POLISH AMERICAN SOCIETY RAFFLE AND CHRISTMAS FOOD SALE**

We are happy to announce the return of our annual St. Mary Polish American Society Christmas Food Sale so everyone can stock up on yummy Polish treats in time for the holidays.

Food items will include:

- Babkas (cheese, cinnamon crumb, or raspberry cheese) for \$15 each from L&M Bakery in Delran, NJ
- Pierogi (potato, potato cheese, or sauerkraut) for \$10 per dozen from Polka Deli in Port Richmond in Philadelphia Vielbes for 40 per gound from Grapula is Port Pichmond
- Kiełbasa for \$9 per pound from Czerw's in Port Richmond
 Blessed opłatki (Polish Christmas wafer) are also available for a free will donation.

The deadline for food orders will be Wednesday December 6th so our suppliers have enough time to process our orders. Order pick-up will be on Friday, December 15th and Saturday December 16th from 1 to 4 pm at St. Mary Catholic Church Hall in Conshohocken.

Also we are still selling tickets for our annual raffle!! The raffle will feature \$10,000 in prizes paid out to seven winning tickets and will be broken down as follows: 1st Prize- \$5,000; 2nd Prize- \$2,000; 3rd Prize- \$1,000 and Four \$500 prizes. Tickets are \$50 each. A total of 500 tickets will be sold.

Raffle proceeds and the Christmas Food Sale support our mission of promoting Polish heritage in Montgomery County, PA and assistance with the restoration of St. Mary Catholic Church in Conshohocken, PA. The drawing will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at St. Mary Hall. To place a food order please email foodsale@stmarypolish.org and to purchase a raffle ticket, please email raffle@stmarypolish.org or for food orders or raffle tickets call Dorothy Swedkowski at 610-630-0861.

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 <u>Adoration</u> 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.



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