



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

651 East Springfield Road • Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064

DECEMBER 1, 2019 • FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 WorriLOW..... 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.



Nirvana and its late lead singer, Kurt Cobain, were the iconic face of the grunge movement and sound of the Nineties. For me, nirvana wasn't some state that I hoped to achieve, but a music to which I often listened in the midst of discernment of direction and vocation in my life. Flannel shirts untucked and baggy, ripped jeans together with unkempt hair on head and face, spoke to a search for meaning in a world in which meaning and purpose were quickly evaporating for many. Grunge, itself, wasn't so much a matter of a searching for and seeking a meaning for life, but rather, a despondent and disdainful response of "who cares?" Perhaps, the tragic end of the famed singer's life only serves to highlight this. I remember reading somewhere that Cobain thought it an exercise of futility for those who sought the meaning behind his songs. The words didn't really mean anything and were just strung together to melody, but people, nonetheless, listened, danced, and sought meaning where there wasn't any. A type of nirvana, I suppose. Though the singer himself apparently sang songs without meaning, for those who listened, the meaning was in the song itself. A refrain repeated and a melody hummed gave meaning and motivation. Jesus, too, sang a song, but His was rich in meaning. It still is and in the season of Advent, all of us are encouraged to listen to it anew. Interestingly, the Savior born in Bethlehem would also come to die a tragic death and He certainly would not be distinguished in His dress of tunic and sandals. I suppose that even the hair on His head and face were more unkempt than not, given that there was no Norelco, Gillette, or Barbasol in His day. Jesus, however, didn't declare a life meaningless, but quite the opposite. In fact, it was He, Who gave life its meaning, because it was He, Who gave meaning Life. Purpose comes with being and being comes with Life. Jesus is its Source and thus, Meaning. In some unbelievably strange way (known but to God!), it was a grunge band of the Nineties and some ripped jeans and flannels that helped a future hoodie-wearing priest come to understand this. Here's hoping that as we begin this most beautiful season of Advent with its many well-known songs, melodies, and hymns, you might understand as well!

Peace!

Fr. Wilson



Monday December 2

8:30 AM TOM CASSIDY

Tuesday December 3

8:30 AM WILLIAM MC HUGH

Wednesday December 4

8:30 AM PETER GAUDIOSI, SR.

Thursday December 5

NO MASS

Friday December 6

**12:15 PM EDNA AND ROBERT
MAC DONALD**

Saturday December 7

8:30 AM ANGELINE FORLANO

NEXT WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday December 7

4:30 PM JEAN AND WALTER ROVINSKI

Sunday December 8

8:30 AM PEOPLE OF HOLY CROSS

**11:00 AM LIVING AND DECEASED
MEMBERS OF THE
CASCIANO FAMILY**



The Holy Cross Knights of Columbus #15482 will be holding their Annual Cemetery Blanket/Door Wreath Sale.. Due to a small increase from the supplier, the price will be \$23 per blanket and door wreaths are \$24 each. To place an ORDER, YOU CAN CALL, TEXT OR E-MAIL Andy Grajek @610-761-9020 or gfrandy@juno.com and leave your name, phone number and the amount of blankets/wreaths that you wish to order. Please leave your contact information in case we need to contact you. There will also be order forms on the tables in the vestibules of Holy Cross Church throughout the sale. If you contact me by e-mail, I can also send you a form electronically. Checks/orders can be sent by mail. Make checks payable to: Holy Cross K.O.C. #15482. Checks can be mailed to: Cemetery Blankets, c/o Andy Grajek, 492 Indian Rock Drive, Springfield, PA 19064. Cemetery blankets will be available for pick-up in the Holy Cross School Parking Lot on Saturday—December 14, from 8:30 to 11:00 AM.

Household Table Prayer For Advent

I lift my soul to You, O Lord.

I lift my soul to You, O Lord.

We eagerly await the coming of Christ to brighten the darkness of the world: may this meal strengthen us to be light for others.

I lift my soul to You, O Lord.

We listen to the voice of the prophets herald witnesses of God's will; may the food of this table nourish us to speak good news.

I lift my soul to You, O Lord.

We are filled with joy at Christ's birth, and believe He will come again in glory; may this time grace us to see His face in others.

I lift my soul to You, O Lord.

We know the Lord is near! The Sun of Justice soon will dawn! Bless this meal, bless our lives during these holy Advent days.

Amen.



The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

“God of hope, I look to You with an open heart and yearning spirit. During this Advent season, I will keep alert and awake, listening for Your word and keeping to Your precepts. My hope is in You.”

Matthew Kelly, Founder of Dynamic Catholic



Fundraiser for St. Vincent DePaul Society

Celtic Christmas Concert

December 4—7:00 PM

Tickets: \$10

Can be purchased in advance

at the Rectory or at the doors of the church

St. Francis of Assisi Church

136 Saxer Avenue

Springfield, PA

Questions: call 610-328-9831

Healing Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray that You will lay your healing Hands upon all those who are sick. We beg You to have compassion on all those who are suffering so that they may be delivered from their pitiful circumstances. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Pray For The Sick

John Boyle
Lyndi Butler
Margaret Cook
Maryanne Convery
Stephen Collins
Samuel Dephillipo
Sharon Diemer
Kathleen Dixon
Janet Doherty
Lillian Donahue

Mary Ann Farrell
Nicola Giordano
Donna Giorgio
Carolyn Henderson
Steven Henderson
Stefanos Karas
Carole Kime
Mary and Ken Kull
Kendall Lambert
Rose Leto
Patricia Lyons

Helen Lyons
Joanne Marks
Barbara Mc Cusker
Lee Anne Mc Gough
Thomas Miller
Dan Murphy
Connie Myers
Frances O'Callaghan
Charlotte O'Leary
Paige O'Leary
Laura Palermo

Holly Riley
Francis Romano
Jim Sandusky
Rose Marie Santos
Michael Sargent III
Joseph Sindoni
Adeline Sulpizio
George Vrettos
Lily Walker
Nadia Waltanski
Carter Walton



Congratulations to the Varsity Girls Volleyball team for a successful season. Thanks to Coach Brooke and Coach Briana for their time and dedication!



The basketball season has begun! Good luck to all teams! Thank you to all of our parents for coaching! We appreciate all that you do!



CYO NIGHT OUT!

SATURDAY,

DECEMBER 7

STINGER'S SECANE

7:00—10:00 PM

\$30 PER PERSON

INCLUDES DRINKS, FOOD, MUSIC, GOOD TIMES, AND LAUGHS ! BASKETS AND RAFFLES FOR PURCHASE. Payment/donations for baskets, contact Kim Ward at 267-246-5424.



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

It is hard to believe that the Advent Season is upon us. It is important that the children know the true meaning of Christmas, the Birth of our Savior. We will be collecting Toys for Toys for Tots. They will be delivered to a collection drop-off before we leave for the Christmas Holidays.

If you will have child(ren) of school age, please consider your parish school. We are making many positive changes to our school. As you may know, the school offices were painted this past summer. We are installing 3 new Smart Boards in the computer room, 7th and 8th grades. I have just written a mini-grant for STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering and Math) items that the children would use throughout the school year. We have a dedicated staff of Teachers, Aides and Administrative Staff who work tirelessly to educate the children academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially. We would love to have your children join our school family. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Spurrier in the school office at 610-626-1709. Registration will begin in the early part of January.

Have a great week!

Dr. Worrilow



MAINTENANCE APPEAL

WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT

TOTAL REQUESTED \$41,513

TOTAL RECEIVED \$16,733

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

CAUTION! BE AWARE!!

Please be aware! Especially, at this time of year, there are various scams and schemes seeking money or account information via e-mail, text, or phone calls. Also individuals might present themselves falsely as indigent and in need. Do not give out information or monies to unknown parties and no one should be soliciting on parish grounds. If a person has true need, there are various resources that parish staff can direct them towards. Thank you!

MONTHLY PRO-LIFE GROUP MEETING



Please join us for our monthly Pro-life Group meeting on Wednesday, *December 4, at 7:00 PM*, in the St. Dorothy Rectory Meeting Room. Entrance is from the parking lot. We welcome your prayers and your input. For more information, please contact Lori Cotterall at 610-328-6054 or Regina Scheerer at 610-328-2463.

God is pro-life! Are you?



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

REFLECTION BY REV. LEONARD N. PETERSON

There is something forlorn about Halloween decorations still hanging around in December. We look at such a place and can only wonder if the owner left town hurriedly. Or that he or she turned seriously ill, and may be lying in a hospital somewhere. Or perhaps the owner is just lazy

and out of touch. For sure, their once proud décor is not in the spirit of the season.

That last instance is precisely what the Church looks like every Advent, when she directs the priest to wear purple, and use the same color for the sanctuary adornment. Then there is the recommended absence of flowers. "What is going on?" we might ask, as we see the rest of the world is festooned with red and green, and is "jingle belling" itself into a shopping spree and a partying marathon?

The simple answer is that the Church believes in a period of penance and fasting before the feast. Those are too ancient and time-tested ways to get ready for a major religious celebration. The people of Italian descent among us try to do the same with their "Feast of the Seven Fishes" but it strikes me that they have waited too long and try to condense a whole month of prep into one evening of December 24.

Obviously, as a Church founded by a Person Who was from childhood a "Sign of Contradiction," she will reflect the Founder in her liturgy and customs. We Catholics are more and more conscious of the conflict we have with our present society when we see so many former aberrations that have been adopted and labeled "the new normal." Just think of the crazy things our legislators have done in the matter of public restrooms.

During these early weeks of Advent, the Church asks us to think forward and consider the Second Coming of Christ. That is when this world as we know it will come to an end and then each of us will be judged. Judged on how much we loved God and neighbor. This is a serious matter because it involves our eternal future. Eternity, they have told me, is a very long time!

Let's face it. We would rather not think about such things. We'd rather turn our attention instead to cozy thoughts of the Babe in the manger. Those many artists employed by the Christmas card makers have given us the bluish moonlight shining on a Nativity scene. Or, that inviting den with a fire glowing and stockings hung on the mantle. Sometimes a cute kitten playing with ribbon gets added. "So nice!" we think.

But Advent doesn't leave us alone with our sweet reveries. It shakes our shoulders and says: "Wake up Christian! Don't you realize that this place isn't your real home and that someday you'll have to leave here to go there? So you better watch out and you better not pout because He's coming to town. I mean Jesus, of course. There's a Second Coming of Christ and you'd better live rightly and justly." As you celebrate the anniversary of the First Coming, which is a fine thing to do because it reminds us of God's great love for us, just keep in mind that Second One!

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