



HOLY CROSS CHURCH

651 East Springfield Road • Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064

DECEMBER 15, 2019 • THIRD 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.



Ecological sinner, repent! Christmas trees are so Twentieth Century. Maybe it's time to put an axe to that tradition and spare the trees. Well, no one (as far as I know) is suggesting this yet, nor am I, but the term "ecological" sin is something new and developing in theology. Pope Francis himself, recently made reference to it. It raises some interesting questions. At this time of the year for example, Christmas trees might be questioned. Real trees wind up being cut down and all of four weeks or so later, they will be put curbside as trash. Is this good for ecology and environment? It sure is good for those who own Christmas tree farms and those who get paid to haul discarded said trees away. Perhaps, the best solution, ye sinner, is an expensive and heavy live tree purchased with balled roots and planted post Christmas in the back yard. Oh, and then, there is the artificial tree. This is a *grave* moral issue. Plastics and chemicals go into its making and its *eventual* disposal presents an environmental nightmare. Concerning "ecological" sins, Christmas trees balled, cut, or artificial are the very least of our problems. The call that we have and have always had, is to one of stewardship. We must do our best to protect the environment. Why indeed throw away, when one can recycle. We pollute in oh, so many ways! We could even make — and should make, reference to the "ecological" of our souls! Ecological sinner, repent! Maybe we could start by simply and humbly picking up the trash that we do see before us and at our feet. A renewed spiritual life and an "ecological" sainthood might begin simply by bending over and picking up that crumbled old coffee cup lying in the parking lot instead of walking over it. Don't throw it away! Put it under the Christmas tree next to the manger! I guarantee that you'll have quite the story to tell come Christmas Day—a day on which God Himself, set out to pick up some trash...and recycle.

Peace!

Fr. Wilson



MONDAY	DECEMBER 16
8:30 AM	BILL SIDEBOTTOM
TUESDAY	DECEMBER 17
8:30 AM	BILL POPPERT
WEDNESDAY	DECEMBER 18
8:30 AM	ROBINSON—MILLER FAMILIES
THURSDAY	DECEMBER 19
	No Mass
FRIDAY	DECEMBER 20
12:15 PM	NERO—CERMAGNINI FAMILIES
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 21
8:30 AM	MC CULLOUGH & DUNLEAVY FAMILIES
NEXT WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS	
SATURDAY	DECEMBER 21
4:30 PM	FRANCIS ARMSTRONG
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 22
8:30 AM	TERESE NERO LAWRENCE
11:00 AM	PEOPLE OF HOLY CROSS

Confession Schedule 2019

PLEASE NOTE: Our Parish Advent Penance Service is scheduled for Monday, December 16, at 7:00 PM. This year we will collaborate with St. Eugene Parish. Confessions will be heard on the above date and time at St. Eugene's. There will be approximately 8 priests available.

PLEASE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A GOOD ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR CONFESSION.

Holy Cross Parish

CONFESSIONS

Advent Penance Service -

Monday— Dec. 16 7:00 PM — St. Eugene Church

Saturday — Dec. 21 — Holy Cross — 3:15 —4:15 PM

MASSES

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM UPPER CHURCH

7:00 PM UPPER CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY

8:30 AM AND 11:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE

4:30 PM VIGIL MASS

NEW YEAR'S DAY

8:30 AM



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

Joanne Marks
Barbara McCusker
Lee Anne McGough
Thomas Miller
Dan Murphy
Connie Myers
Frances O'Callaghan
Charlotte O'Leary
Paige O'Leary
Laura Palermo
Francis Romano
Jim Sandusky
Rose Marie Santos
Michael Sargent III
Joseph Sindoni
Adeline Sulpizio
George Vrettos
Lily Walker



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED — CHRISTMAS PRESENCE — CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

We want our sick and homebound parishioners to know we think about them and pray for them, especially during this Holy Season. Please share your Christmas joy by helping to deliver a special Christmas card and plant to our homebound on Tuesday, December 17. All Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound and volunteers will come to the Convent to pick up the pointsettia and Christmas card anytime between 9:15 AM and 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 17. All visitations will be done on that day. Thank you to all who can help bring our parish greetings to our homebound.

Principal's Corner

As the Advent season continues, the students are continuing to collect the Toys for Tots. The toys will be delivered to a drop off point before we leave for the holidays.

The children in grades 2—8 go to confession throughout the school year. This week, grades 5—6 received the healing power of Jesus through the priest.

The Christmas Bazaar for the students was a huge success. I want to thank the Home and School and all of the volunteers who made this day so special for the children. Santa was a big hit. St. Nicholas came that day as well.

The first trimester of the school year has ended. It went by so quickly. We are now in the second trimester of the year.

Our Candlelight Procession will take place on **Tuesday, December 17, at 7:00 PM in the Church.** Please come and join us as we tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Registration for our parish school will take place the last week of January. Please continue to check the bulletin and the principal's corner for more information.

Have a great week!

God bless you!

Dr. Worrilow





Congratulations!

*Welcome to our New Parishioner
Baptized Recently at Holy Cross*

Camryn Dougherty



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.



Volunteers Needed for Church Christmas Decorating

Flowers — Saturday, December 21, 9:30 AM

Stable and Trees

Sunday, December 22, 12 Noon

The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

"What a joy and relief to know that God loves and forgives us as we cleanse our hearts in preparation for the gift of His Son. How blessed we are to have this time of Advent preparation, to contemplate both God's mercy and His justice! What can you do this week to turn back to Our Lord and to share with family and friends your own experience of Advent.?"



Holy Cross Development Fundraiser

Support Holy Cross Church and School

- * Each Calendar has a 4 Digit Number*
- * Each Calendar costs \$50*
- * Each Day (366) has a Cash Prize*
 - Daily — \$25*
 - Weekends — \$50*
 - 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

December 15 — Third Sunday of Advent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

I've seen the following request both in print and in person. A doctor's receptionist or nurse asks me: "May I have your insurance card and your personal ID?" This always strikes me as unnecessary "red tape" because I would have been there before and done this. Obviously I would only be there in the first place by order of the doctor. But such is the security precaution needed these days in a world of rampant fraud.

That kind of technological security was unknown in John the Baptist's world. Yet authenticating a stranger's identity was just as important then as it is now, albeit for different reasons. In those bygone days, there were so many false claimants to the august title of "Messiah" that one had to be sure. In this case, we know St. John was sure of Jesus. Had he not called Him "the Lamb of God" at the riverbank? So he must have wanted his own disciples to have the same surety. He was gently striving to get them to shift their allegiance from himself to Jesus. That alone implies a beautiful humility in Our Lord's illustrious cousin.

St. Matthew then gives us a full "job description," if you will, of the authentic Messiah. He does it through Jesus' answer to John's delegation. See the healing and preaching of the Good News that I'm doing. Note how that captures in brief the mission of our Catholic Church.

Patience is not always our usual American way. But during this Advent season, we can try again to practice it. Our younger generation needs our example. From that they will take the hint that following Christ has its ups and downs, as life itself has, but that heroes are not made overnight or easily. Allow me to return to my opening reference to the habits of the medical profession. Somebody came up with a little homespun wisdom that plays with our language and opined that "it just maybe that our hospitals would have few pedestrian patients if there were more patient pedestrians."



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