



# HOLY CROSS CHURCH

651 East Springfield Road • Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064

DECEMBER 8, 2019 • SECOND 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](http://www.holycrosscatholics.org)  
 E-mail ..... [contactus@holycrosscatholics.org](mailto: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.

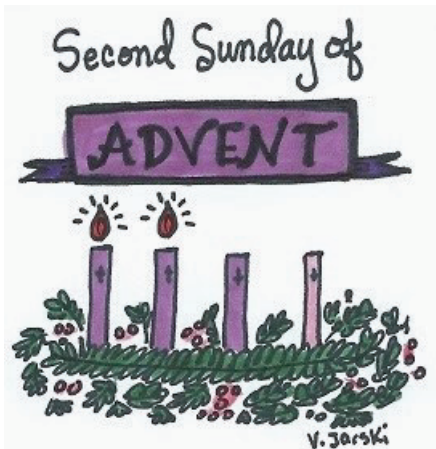
First time parents and godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session which is held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

## 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.



It's a story that I cannot fully tell, because it's a story that I do not fully know. It's still unfolding and all of what I do know is enmeshed in mystery such that I *cannot* fully know – at least not yet. Someone asked me recently about my vocational story. There is so little that I know and so much that I don't. I know that I first thought of priesthood in the sixth grade. A transitional deacon visited our classroom during Advent and spoke to us briefly. Though not yet a priest, he was on his way. The thought crossed my mind that maybe, one day in the future, I could do that. Was it his black suit and collar that attracted me? Well perhaps, but I had seen those plenty of times on priests and I was never exactly a "suit and tie" type

of guy anyway. I'm still not. I sometimes joke that I became a priest because I really don't like to wear ties! Maybe it had something to do with the remarkable and inspiring words that the young deacon spoke? No. I don't remember anything of what he said. All I know is that somehow and for some reason a seed was planted that day. Maybe that is, in part, what Advent is all about: the planting of "seeds" - seeds of faith, seeds of hope, seeds of love, seeds of new beginnings, and vocational seeds as well. All I know is that I feel particularly close to and have an affinity for deacons to this day and the selfless service that defines diaconate. All I know is that I'm still a deacon as well. Seeds are planted and grow. I know this from kindergarten and early grade school. I was always fascinated to watch that little seed that had been planted during a class "burst forth" as it were, from the soil and with each passing day reach outward and upward as little leaves begin to unfold in sort of a "prayer position," one might say. I remember much later in life being inspired by and witnessing a return to life of a plant (a "prayer" plant, in fact) that withered under my watch, a green thumb gone gangrenous on my part. Assumed dead and soon to be discarded, from the potted soil appeared something new, alive, and bursting forth. Such is the mystery of the Season of Advent and the seeds planted therein. Such is the mystery of the beauty of a religious vocation. It's a story that I can only begin to tell, because it's a story that I'm only beginning to understand. Maybe you can help me to tell it and maybe, one day, I'll help you tell yours.

Peace!  
Fr. Wilson

*Please remember to pray 3 Hail Mary's every day for vocations! Thank you.*

*Please note: The Immaculate Conception of Mary is transferred to Monday, December 9, this year. It is not a Day of Obligation.*

**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.*





<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 9</b>
<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> (*Not a Day of Obligation this year)	
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>JULIA &amp; JOHN GRANDIZIO &amp; JOHN F. GRANDIZIO (School Mass)</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 10</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>THE FOY—GREENLEAF FAMILIES</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 11</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>NICOLE GALLO</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 12</b>
	<b>No Mass</b>
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 13</b>
<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>HAZEL BOYLE</b>
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 14</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE CARBERRY &amp; MC SWIGGAN FAMILIES</b>
<b>NEXT WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 14</b>
<b>4:30 PM</b>	<b>DR. THOMAS &amp; CAROL JACOB</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>DECEMBER 15</b>
<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>ROBERT MAC DONALD</b>
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>PEOPLE OF HOLY CROSS</b>



John Boyle	Helen Lyons
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

## 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. Call Judy Vacca at 610-259-8266 before December 15 if you can help us. All Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound and volunteers will come to the Convent to pick up the poinsettia 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 greeting bound. to our home-bound.





## Principal's Corner

Dear Parishioners,

Happy Advent! It is hard to believe that the Christmas Season is upon us.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception is normally on December 8. This year, it falls on the second Sunday of Advent; therefore, it will be celebrated on Monday, December 9. The children will be attending the 8:30 AM Mass that day.

The students will be collecting new toys that will be donated to Toys for Tots. This is one of the ways we can spread some Christmas cheer to children in need. The toys will be delivered to a collection drop-off before we leave for the Christmas Holidays.

The children went shopping on Friday at the Christmas Bazaar held in the school gym. Santa was there to listen to their wishes and pose for some great pictures.

The children are practicing for the annual Candlelight celebration that will take place in church on Tuesday, December 17, at 7:00 PM. Please feel free to come and join us as we present the story of Christ's birth.



Thank you for supporting our school throughout the year. Remember, if you have a child(ren) of school age, please consider your parish school. First and foremost, the students continue to build on what they have learned at home, most importantly, their spiritual development. Jesus is the reason that our school exists. We are making improvements to enrich the education of the students. Three new Smartboards were installed over the weekend and two more are coming. We review our curriculum each year and update textbooks as needed. Teachers attend workshops to enhance their skills and instruct their students using a variety of methods. We all learn differently and there are many ways to teach a lesson. Our goal is to prepare our students for the future. They are the future of our church and of our world.

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

Dr. Worrilow

### MAINTENANCE APPEAL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
GENEROSITY

TOTAL REQUESTED \$41,513

TOTAL RECEIVED \$18,757

### SUNDAY COLLECTION

SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 17 - \$8,714.

SUNDAY—NOVEMBER 24 - \$7,828.

SUNDAY—DECEMBER 1 - \$8,554.



***Congratulations !***

***Welcome to our New Parishioners Baptized Recently at Holy Cross.***

***THERESA ELLIS GAMBER***

***JEMIMAH ALICE SESAY***

***JOHN THOMAS MARTINO***

***JASMINE ADAMA SESAY***

***RYDER WILLIAM SHAFER***

***BRYCE TRAN THOMAS***

***JEREMIAH WILLIAM SESAY***

***GREGORY JOHN THOMAS***

Holy Cross Parish Operating Income Statement For the Three Month Period ended September 30, 2019		Current 3 Months	Prior 3 Months
Church Revenue (Includes Contributions from Families of Current students)		175,887	172,090
Expenses:			
Salaries and Benefits		102,753	103,545
Maintenance/Utilities		27,531	24,716
Diocesan Assessment *		24,925	24,850
Other (Property Taxes & Insurance, Altar Supplies, Transportation)***		24,615	34,707
Total Expenses		179,824	187,818
Church Operating Income (loss)		(3,937)	(15,728)
Estimated Cost of School Tuition Subsidy **		(16,280)	(22,778)
Combined Operating Income (Loss)		(20,217)	(38,506)

\* Covers Diocesan normal operating costs. None of these funds can be used to fund the legal settlements related to sexual abuse.

\*\* The parish provides a tuition subsidy of \$1,400 per child for active parish families.

\*\*\* No Interest Expense is incurred by the parish as the parish does not have loans with any financial institution. The amount due to the diocese of \$1.2 million which was incurred several years ago is non-interest bearing and payment is not due currently. The parish is current with all payables.

## December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Experience amends a well-known proverb so that honesty is not always the best policy, especially in our interpersonal relationships. I doubt there is a husband alive who doesn't know the right answer to his wife's query: "Do these jeans make me look fat?" Complete honesty in this example would net a host of negative responses, perhaps including a lost supper that evening.

Similarly, every wife knows what not to do on a typical Sunday afternoon in the Fall when it comes to suggesting to her husband that he help her rake the leaves when the hometown football team is playing televised football. She might not like his verbal response. And so it goes.

On the other hand, we dare not deny the necessity of honesty in any spiritual self appraisal we may undertake, much less one guided by a trusted spiritual advisor.

We come face to face this second Sunday of Advent 2019 with the man of the season: John the Baptist. Honesty personified is he. Complete with his unusual wardrobe, fortified by his strange diet, yet striking the pose of a prophet. He has a disdain for the religious leaders of his people. In a scene ripe for cinema, he confronts the Pharisees and Sadducees, who have come to throw down the gauntlet. St. John takes the initiative. He stops the line, stares right at the intruders, and calls them a "brood of vipers."

Right then and there, we could say that John is never getting a dinner invitation from any Pharisee or Sadducee. John couldn't care less. He knows they are phonies with no real interest in repentance because they believe themselves to be the truly righteous ones. John even denies their pedigree as "children of Abraham."

He knows his honest appraisal of the two groups could be the first step toward their true reform. He wants them prepared to meet the Messiah who is already in their midst and soon to appear.

As we prepare each Advent to celebrate the anniversary of our Savior's birth among us, twinning His divinity with our humanity, we need to prepare ourselves spiritually. That starts with repentance for all those deviant decisions we have made in the last year that amount to acts of self-worship. Another word for them is sin. No one is going to call us a "brood of vipers," except perhaps the voice of conscience.

That's a good thing, if we will allow ourselves to hear it above the cacophony of the American "pre-Christmas Christmas" of these early December days. Imagine your soul as a stable that needs cleaning. We are about to make way for the King coming to us there. Peruse the calendar of saints and you'll discover how nearly all of them spent their lives "cleaning up" for their ultimate home with Him.

Of course, I must admit that sometimes our preparation for change is misunderstood. A fellow priest told me this one. *"Ever since my brother was very young, our Mother tried to get him to clean his room or at least make his bed — usually to no avail. When he was preparing to leave home to attend college, he knew his pending departure was upsetting her, so he took the time to tidy the bed before he left. To his surprise Mom became even more emotional. 'Look,' she wailed*





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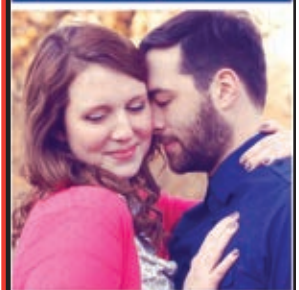
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