

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

651 East Springfield Road • Springfield, Pennsylvania 19064

JANUARY 3, 2021 • THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

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Parish School610-626-1709
Religious Education.....610-626-1057
Convent610-626-2491
Music Director.....holycrossmus@gmail.com
Website.....www.holycrosscatholics.org
E-mailcontactus@holycrosscatholics.org

Rev. Eugene C. Wilson..... Pastor
Rev. Edward C. Kelly Resident/Faculty COHS
Rev. Thomas J. Furey St. Joseph Villa/Retired
Deacon Thomas L. Taylor..... Permanent Deacon
Deacon Robert Frankenberger..... Retired
Deacon Joseph N. Gousie..... Retired
Mrs. Theresa Carey..... Business Manager
Dr. Mary Rose Worrirow..... Principal
Mrs. Kelly Meliti Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Grete Ingalls. MM, CAGO..... Music Director

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 4:30 PM
Sunday, Upper Church 8:30 and 11:00 AM
Holy Day As announced
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday 8:30 AM
Friday* 12:15 PM

*Currently suspended - view online only

NEW PARISHIONERS

All Catholics living in the parish should register. Our Welcome Center located in the hallway behind the sanctuary 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)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday, Lower Church: 3:30 to 4:15 PM or by appointment.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12:00 PM.

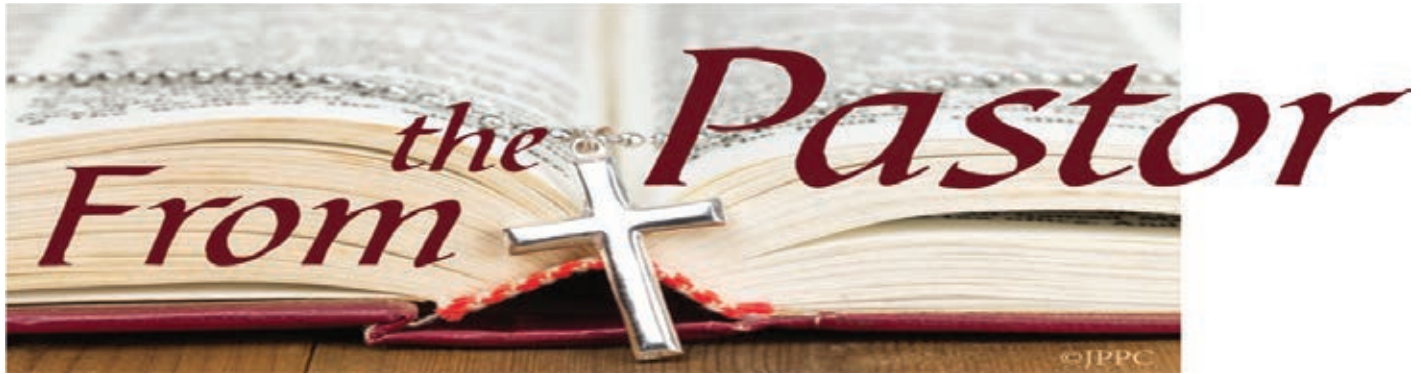
First time parents and godparents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation Session which is held on the 1st Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. Please call the Parish Office for more information.

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 Deacon Thomas Taylor or the Parish Office when a parishioner is hospitalized or home bound.



I don't remember exactly who it was that played the part of the Wise Men, but I do know that they certainly didn't have to travel that far following the star to our Bethlehem. The sanctuary of our church wasn't all that big. How far those particular Wise Men have travelled since, I really have to wonder. For the actual Magi, the return trip home was indeed longer. Remember that they went back by a different route in order to avoid Herod. They probably took the back roads, which usually mean a longer journey. It is a long journey to encounter the Christ Child, but once encountered, the journey becomes even longer as that Child grows into a Man – and we grow with Him. The Christmas Play of my youth was certainly something memorable for me. As I said, I don't remember exactly who played the Wise Men, but I most certainly remember who played Mary and Joseph. Mary was played by Mary Beth, my classmate and an outstanding student. She was really smart and so outgoing. She had a very kind personality and everybody liked her including me. Joseph was played by yours truly. I don't know why I was picked. Maybe Sister Margaret had a premonition of my future journey or maybe, she was just very well aware that Joseph spoke ne'er a word in all of Sacred Scripture and she knew how very self-conscious I was as a public speaker. Deep down, I still don't really like public speaking. Cursive is more my thing. At any rate, I was so grateful not to have a speaking part, but nonetheless I was still nervous. Part of Joseph's role is walking with and guiding Mary. This Joseph had to walk with and guide Mary as well. That was accomplished in front of EVERYONE while holding Mary's hand. I would have been nervous holding Mary Beth's hand in a room all by ourselves, let alone standing in front of the whole student body with all their parents, siblings, the parish priests, and our nuns present to boot! I had to keep wiping my sweaty palms on my tunic. *Stop wiping your hands*, Sister said more than once! I couldn't help it. Being called out in front of everyone didn't help either. My heart raced a little bit and I had a funny feeling in my stomach as I held Mary Beth's hand. Maybe that's how Saint Joseph himself, felt as he had the privilege of holding the Blessed Mother's hand. Mary Beth, as kind as she was, never once said anything about my sweaty hands and she played her role very sweetly, staring deeply into my eyes during one part. There goes that stomach thing again. My parents were so proud. They beamed with pride as it was their son that was chosen to play the part of Saint Joseph at the annual Christmas Play in his Eighth Grade year. As a class, it took all of us eight years to get to this Bethlehem. Quite the journey, indeed! However, the subsequent journey was even longer and those "back roads" can prove challenging at times to say the least. Mary Beth's journey ended all too soon with news of a tragic car accident while we were in high school. Sister Margaret's journey would end far too soon as well with a cancer diagnosis. Recently, I learned of another classmate's passing due to COVID. I believe that she played an Angel and she was sure like one in life. Now, that I think of it, I believe one of the Wise Men was my buddy, Chuck. He kept making stage whispers of a sort involving tawdry things regarding Mary and Joseph's hand-holding. It didn't help my sweaty palms. Chuck's journey sadly ended far too soon too. My point is not a sad one. My point is the journey, because life is about the journey. None of us were sad following our Christmas Play that year; quite the opposite. We were in our final year of grade school and we had our whole lives and the whole world in front of us. We were all Wise Men setting out on a journey of return, leaving, yes, a Child, childhood, and sweaty palms behind, but bringing a Mature Message of Hope to the world. It is exactly this same message that our world needs today as we begin a New Year. Regardless of the challenges that lie ahead, journey hopefully and bring the Hope of Christ to the world as we make our circuitous and "back roads" return Home!

Peace! Fr. Wilson

Masses For The Week



MONDAY	JANUARY 4
8:30 AM	Vivian & George Amorosa
TUESDAY	JANUARY 5
8:30 AM	Bob Cassidy
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 6
8:30 AM	Deceased Members of the Steck Family
THURSDAY	JANUARY 7
8:30 AM	No Mass
Friday—Public Mass suspended during the green phase. Mass available online.	
FRIDAY	JANUARY 8
12:15 PM	His Eminence Jerome Edward Listcki Archbishop of Milwaukee

NEXT WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY	JANUARY 9
8:30 AM	Joanne Marks
4:30 PM	William Heiden, Jr.
SUNDAY	JANUARY 10
8:30 AM	Deceased Members of the Lambert Family
11:00 AM	People of Holy Cross

On-Line Giving

Join the growing number of Holy Cross Parishioners who contribute to the Sunday offertory by electronic means. It is convenient and easy. Please visit our website and click on "Our Parish" and then the "Parish Giving" tab or contact the business office for assistance.



Sunday Collection, December 27

Due to the Christmas Holiday the numbers for the Sunday collection were not available at the time of bulletin submission.

PHILADELPHIA MARCH FOR LIFE

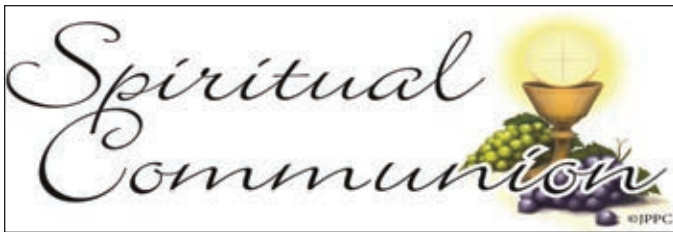
Come to the Philadelphia March for Life on Saturday, January 23. Mass will be celebrated by Archbishop Nelson Perez at the Cathedral at 9:00 AM, followed by a March at 10:30 to Independence Mall with a stop at the Philadelphia Women's Center, where 5,500 abortions are performed each year. The 12:00 noon Rally at Independence Mall will include pro-life speakers including Archbishop Nelson Perez along with nationally prominent pro-life advocate Jason Jones. Come to witness for LIFE!





Bill Burke
Sharon Burr
Lyndi Butler
Margaret Cook
Stephen Collins
Samuel DePhillippo
Nancy DeSanctis
George Dickinson
Janet Doherty
Terrence (Terry) Gibson
Nella Giordano
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
Lucy Mashura, S.F.O.
Barbara McCusker
Lee Anne McGough
Dan Murphy
Connie Myers
Frances O'Callaghan
Charlotte O'Leary
Paige O'Leary
Mary Ann Purcell
Mary Rafferty
Rose Marie Santos
Michael Sargent III
Theresa Sherwin
Joseph Sindoni
Fr. Paul Stenson
George Vrettos
Lily Walker
Nadia Waltanski
Carter Walton



The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

We know that the Epiphany is traditionally celebrated all over the world on January 6, and is dedicated to the birth of Christ, which includes a nod toward the three Kings who followed the star, travelling from their countries to pay tribute to the Son of God. But did you know....

The three Kings represent Europe, Arabia and Africa?

---Catholic Online

Catholic Relief Services Collection

The annual Catholic Relief Services collection funds Catholic agencies that work for the benefit of our brothers and sisters around the world. This collection supports vital Catholic programs that share in the Catholic mission of promoting the sacredness of human life. The collection will be taken up the weekend of January 16 and 17, 2021. We appreciate your generosity.





Holy Cross Development Fundraiser

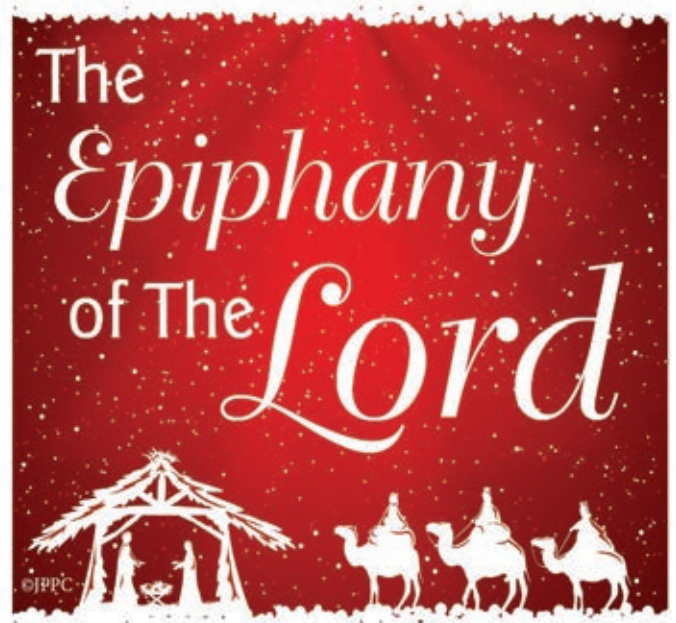
\$\$ 365 Chances to Win \$\$

Support Holy Cross Church and School

Purchase a Calendar for \$50.00. Each calendar has a 4-digit number. Each day (365) has a cash prize.

Daily	\$50.00
Weekends	\$100.00
Holidays	\$150.00

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. Fill out a calendar fundraiser form and return to the Business Office or place in the Sunday collection basket. For any questions, please contact hcdevelopmentfund@gmail.com.



Visit with Jesus in our
Adoration Chapel
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Need info call
Ronnie 610.623.8412 or Office 610.626.3321



Food Pantry Update

The Food Pantry will reopen on January 6, 2021.

Our volunteers and Neighbors in Need have no words to express our immense gratitude and sincere appreciation. Thanks to all of you (Holy Cross parishioners), our volunteers, Holy Cross Knights of Columbus, our school children, Springfield Boy Scout Troop 512 and Cub Scout Pack 240, Sisters of Mercy at Merion, Erie Insurance for your generosity during this holiday season.

The pantry provided Christmas food fixings and desserts to our Most in Need Neighbors on December 23.

If you know any Delco residents, who require food, please let them know we are open every Wednesday from 3:30 to 6:00 PM, directly behind Holy Cross School.

God Blessings to All, wishing you a safe and healthy Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Your Friends from the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry Team



Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

From boyhood I have always loved the Epiphany story, perhaps because the magi manage to bring a touch of the exotic and color to the nearly monochrome stable scene of the first Christmas. More than that, their very arrival after a presumably long dangerous journey has always underscored the attractive power and authentic divinity of the baby Jesus. Also, the stark contrast the gift bearers make with the humble homespun couple and their newborn has always struck me with how God acts in ways that challenge our expectations.

Of course, we should not be surprised how often God does this, thoroughly upsetting our ideas about “how things ought to be.” When our notions clash with His, urging us to ask for Him to change His decision, He simply refers to His prior admission that “My ways are not yours” and the added codicil “Learn from Me.”

We could ask “Shouldn’t the wise men have pooled their resources to set up this young couple and their child in the best room at the inn?” Not a proper question albeit a natural one. We have to accept God the Father’s “No” to that.

To that we add the vexing question for the Jews at that time: “Why does Yahweh allow these gentiles to receive a warm welcome from God when we are His chosen people?” A hard pill for them to swallow as they heard this story.

Inevitably, we come to think about our personal failure in at least one aspect of our lives. One would think that after all this time, all these centuries since the Bethlehem event, and the clear teaching of the grown-up Nazarene, we would still be guilty of racial prejudice. And what about this awful habit of practically naming ourselves “God’s selected ones” all the time forgetting the petty betrayal of Him involved in our every sin? One could analyze that each sin of ours is like a spike of rough straw chafing an infant’s skin. Or more heinous, like a thorn crowning a condemned God-Man’s sacred head.

We have our work cut out for us, as in our imaginations we rise up from our knees behind the wise men when they stand up. We know they won’t be going back to Herod with any report. Nor will they take the same route home. Nobody who has seen Christ goes away the same. They will have learned without any words from the Holy Infant what it takes to be truly wise. All of this is what makes the Epiphany celebration wonderful. Our Eastern rite brothers and sisters celebrate this day more than Christmas. It is the day our God revealed Himself as Someone available to everybody and not to just one race.

When I find myself tempted to join the growing number of cynics in the world beyond my front door, who seem more aggressive these days than we are in spreading their convictions, I can recall this scene for comfort. It has adorned many a Christmas card; been added to literary fiction in Henry Van Dyke’s story of “The Other Wise Man,” and immortalized in music as the subject of Menotti’s opera “Amahl and the Night Visitors.”

In my mind I see the weary camels shaking the tiny bells in their livery. I hear rustling silk in the apparel of the extraordinary travelers from the East. I smell the aroma of incense competing with the stink of the stable. And I see the look of delight on that tiny Face which I believe with all my heart to be my God’s countenance.

May that same God love you throughout this New Year and give you His peace.



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