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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 contactus@holycrosscatholics.org

Theresa Carey, Business Manager
Donna Berg, Parish Secretary
Betty McIntyre, Safe Environment Coordinator
Andrew Ryan, Bulletin Editor

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE (610)-626-1057

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, January 5, 2025

# Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

It truly is "the most wonderful time of the year" and this story of the Visit of the Wise Men is yet another lyrical element of the Christmas story. Into the drab stable cave come these Gentile visitors from the Orient richly dressed in vibrant colors. Whatever is of gold in their garb catches the light of the fire there. We can also hear the tinkling of the bells on the camel harness as the stately animals make their moves. They are a stark contrast to the locals gathered.

Analyzing Matthew's story, a bit makes us wonder. How many visitors were there? Three or thirteen? After all, it's the number of gifts they brought that makes us compute the group size. Along the way, these exotic visitors became the Three Kings. Tradition further conferred names on them: Caspar (who is made black), Balthazar and Melchior in the Western Church.

Their gifts became highly significant. Gold highlights the kingship of Jesus. The frankincense His divinity. The Myrrh, an embalming fluid no less, stands for Christ's redemptive suffering. We can see that this story is more than meets the eye.

Remembering that Matthew wrote his gospel for Jewish converts to Christianity, we must recognize his main point: Jesus came for Gentiles as well as Jews. He is the designated Savior of all mankind.

This last aspect of the story had to be a challenge for Matthew's readers. They had a long tradition behind their generally accepted belief that Yahweh God had chosen them as His people. That is true even in our own time. But this was a choice that had to call for expansion. Otherwise, God is rendered too small. Believers in the myriad Gentile gods had to know that paradise was an option for them that entailed belief in the one supreme Lord.

We contemporary believers must maintain an immense respect for the children of Abraham. After all, as the Roman Canon declares: "Abraham (is) our father in faith." The baby Jesus came to us as a Jew. The Blessed Mother and St. Joseph were good practicing Jews. So were most of Our Lord's closest early followers. Anti-antisemitism has no place in a Christian heart. That evil threatens the beautiful poetry of this feast on this first Sunday of the new year. The axiom is true: "Wise men still seek Him."

"We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts, we traverse afar, Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star."



### Reading I: Isaiah 60: 1-6

All parts of the world will process to Jerusalem. There they will rebuild the city in prosperous times.

#### Reading II: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

The author recounts Paul's role in announcing the divine plan. Its main point is the new inclusion of the Gentile world.

### The Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

Jesus' birth is inserted into the political and social context. The wise men represent the Gentile world coming to Christ.



# MASSES FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

8:30 AM - No Mass

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7

8:30 AM - Maureen Ketchum

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

8:30 AM - John Fulginiti

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9

8:30 AM - Those Enrolled in the Memorial Fund

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10

8:30 AM - Michael O'Kane

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11

8:30 AM - No Mass

4:30 PM - Betty McGarvey

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12

8:30 AM - For the People of The Parish

11:00 AM - Cass, Bob & Bobby Kling

### The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

The Epiphany of our Lord gives us a chance to reflect on the family-centered nature of this Feast Day and its original connection to the celebration of the Holy Family. The Magi were willing to take the risk of searching for the Child, in what they believed was a monumental event. They were the first Gentiles to encounter Jesus, and remain a powerful example to us. Search for Jesus, He is right there beside you!

p.s. Can you name the 3 wise men? Casper, Melchior and Balthazar

### SANCTUARY LAMP

This week's Sanctuary Lamp intention is for:

Church - Robert Seitz, Sr.

Chapel - Jack Carey



### **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

Due to the Christmas and New Year Holidays the numbers for the Sunday Collection were not available at the time of Bulletin Submission.

### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Beginning in January... A name will stay in the bulletin for FOUR WEEKS. The contact person must notify the Parish Office if the person needs to stay on the list or they will be removed. Names can be put on the prayer list or removed from the prayer list by contacting the Parish Office in person, by phone (610.626.3321) or by email (contactus@holycrosscatholics.org).

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## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship

Holy Cross K of C will have a Free Throw Championship on Saturday January 25, 2025 in the Holy Cross Gym from 1pm to 3pm. All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are welcome to attend. The age deadline is as of January 1, 2025. All winners will advance to the District Championship.

### St. Francis Players Wizard of Oz Auditions!

The St. Francis Players are pleased to announce our 2025 production will be "The Wizard of Oz"! Performances to be held: April 25, 26, and 27 as well as May 2, 3, and 4.

Sign ups and auditions for adults (9th grade and older) will be on Sunday, January 5 at 8:15 PM-Leonard Hall, 136 Saxer Avenue, Springfield PA 19064

Callbacks to be held Wednesday, January 8. Children's chorus (Grade 1-8) or anyone interested in other volunteer opportunities need only to register on our website. Should lead roles for children be deemed necessary, auditions for children will be scheduled for a later date. For more information regarding auditions and other special events regarding the St. Francis Players please visit our website <a href="https://www.stfrancisplayers.org">www.stfrancisplayers.org</a>.

### Holy Spirit Group Retreat – Malvern Retreat St Joseph in the Hills

#### January 24-26, 2025

It is a Traditional Men's retreat, including daily Mass, conferences, all meals and overnight accommodations, at a cost of \$275.00 Our weekend begins 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 24 through Sunday 26, 2025. I'd like you to consider coming out for this retreat. During this time, you will experience prayer, meditation, reconciliation, group discussions Eucharistic liturgies and special speakers.

- \* This years' Retreat Director is Father William Cocco of St Edmonds Parish Rehoboth Beach DE.
- \* Our speakers are Deacon Tom McGovern of St Joseph Paris High bridge N.J.
- \* Mary Bea with the Carlo Acutis Shrine at Malvern retreat House.
- \* Finally, our special event is Mr. Eustace Wolfington, Executive Producer, of Angel Studio's presenting a private viewing of the acclaimed movie "Cabrini".

### School News

As we begin the season of Advent, we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus. Our Feast Days this month include St. Francis Xavier, St.Ambrose, The Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Lucy, St. John of the Cross, St. Stephen, St. John, Holy Innocents, the Feast of the Holy Family, and the Nativity of the Lord.

We will celebrate our faith with our Advent wreaths, prayers, and Jesse Tree. Each day, we will learn of a new ornament for our Jesse Tree that explains God's plan of salvation, culminating in The Word made Flesh, Jesus our Savior.

We are hard at work practicing for our annual Candlelight Procession., which will be held on Thursday night December 19th at 7 PM. All parishioners are welcome to join us at this beautiful celebration of the Nativity of our Lord.

Friday, December 13, our students had fun at our Santa's Workshop. The students had a visit and their picture taken with Santa and they got to shop for all those on their gift list. Thank you to our Home and School who work so hard to make this a great day for our children and faculty.

Grades PK3- 2nd enjoyed the Musical Petting Zoo, learning about many musical instruments on Thursday, December 12.

The virtue for December is Generosity: giving without counting the cost. To help practice and strengthen this virtue, we currently have charitable opportunities, including our canned food drive and writing cards for military personnel, which will allow students to complete works of mercy and offer them to God. Our students are hard at work in their academic studies and performing virtuous and charitable works to help others.

As we wait in anticipation for the coming of our Savior, we pray for all of you to have a wonderful and joyous Advent and Christmas Season.

### Cardinal O'Hara Class of 1975 – 50th Reunion

### SAVE THE DATE - October 11, 2025 – Llanerch Country Club

We Need Your Help! Submit your contact information to Oharaclassof75@gmail.com... follow us on Facebook at Cardinal O'Hara Class of '75...Let other classmates know too! See you next year!

### **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 RaiseRight.com on your computer.

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

### **Food Pantry Update**

Thanks to all who enabled our pantry to provide Thanksgiving turkeys / chickens and the fixings to our Neighbors in Need. There are many groups who helped with food and muscle.

- Boy Scouts Troops 512 and 503 and Cub Scouts Troop 240 collected over 500 bags of food last weekend.
- St.Francis School Students (even under all the duress of a fire in their school) collected food.
- St. Vincent dePaul Society, St. Francis Conference and...
- St. Kevins Knights of Columbus also collected food and turkeys from their parishioners.
- AOH (Ancient Order of Hibernians) provided many turkeys
- Brinker Simpson's employees provided a van full of supplies.

As we all know, it takes a village to support this effort. Our Holy Cross parishioners, our Knights of Columbus folks and our tireless SVDP Food Pantry volunteers are always helping us every week throughout the year and we appreciate " All of your generosity and prayers". In case we haven't shared this lately... We are so very grateful for all of you... Just a reminder, the pantry is closed Thanksgiving week and will return on Wednesday, December 4th and our hours are 3:45 to 5:30. If you know anyone in Delco in need of food, please share that we are open every Wed.

May you and your families have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving.

Love and Prayers from our SVDP Holy Cross Food Pantry Volunteers

### Three Parish Book Club

The Book Club will hold its December and January meeting in the Family Life Center at Holy Cross on Wednesday, January 22nd at 7PM. If you would like to join the meeting or if you would like more information, please contact Terry Price at 610.506.6449 or via email at termprice@verizon.net.

December book – Waiting for Christ – St. John Henry Newman

January book – Walking with God in the Unimpressive Seasons of Life – Fr. Mike Schmitz

## First Friday Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Please join us for the Nine First Fridays Devotion of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion will begin on Friday, October 4th and end on Friday, June 6th, fulfilling our Lord's request of nine consecutive Fridays.

The Schedule for First Fridays: First Friday Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 am. Adoration will be in the Church from 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Confessions will be held from 7:00 pm - 7:45 pm.

If you would like more information about First Friday and First Saturday devotions, pamphlets are available at the entrance of either side of the Church.

### The Incredible Christmas Eucharistic Miracle of 2013

On December 25, 2013, the St. Hyacinth's Shrine in Legnica, Poland celebrated Christmas Mass.

During communion, a host fell to the floor. Following the Church's instructions to respect sacred species, the priest placed the Eucharist in a container of holy water and kept it in the tabernacle.

However, two weeks later, the priest discovered that the host turned red. He told the bishop, and a commission was established to observe the phenomenon.

Bishop Zbigniew Kerlikowski of Legnica later released a statement regarding the Forensic Medicine Department's <u>analysis results</u>.

"In the histopathological image, fragments of tissue were found, which contained fragmented particles of striated muscle tissue. The whole image is very similar to that of a cardiac muscle ... that shows changes typical of an agony. DNA shows that the tissue is of human origin.

This Eucharistic miracle of Christmas 2013 seems to bring together three feats that Jesus accomplished for our salvation: a God incarnate and born as a little baby, a God who gives himself for us in the sacrifice of the Cross, and a God always waiting for us in the Eucharist.

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T SPARE JUST ONE HOUR WITH JESUS IN OUR INTIMATE CHAPEL????

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT SCHEDULE. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT EILEEN AT 610-213-3369

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# St. Thomas Monastery Front Desk Receptionist

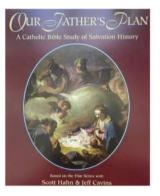
St. Thomas Monastery, Long-Term Health Care Facility of the Augustinian Friars, located on the campus of Villanova University, is looking for a per diem Front Desk Receptionist. Responsibilities include greeting visitors, answering the phone and assisting the Friars with minor requests. Available shifts: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 2PM - 7PM. Must be able to fill in for co-workers at times. Background History Check performed upon application. Applicants must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Annual parking fee of \$30.00 required if applicable. Email Lynn Walsh, Office Manager, at lynn.walsh@villanova.edu

# **Students Excelling 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 report. We are particularly proud of those who demonstrated academic excellence.

Students who have achieved first honors include: Erin Saye '26, Miley Woltanski '26, Daniel Kull '27. Students who have achieved second honors include: Hannah Nguyen '26, Sophia Campbell '27, Hayden Ganley '27, Alyssa Zebuski '27, Sean Campbell '28, Anthony Huynh '28.

### Winter Bible Study at Holy Cross



Have you ever wondered how to read your Bible, or struggled to make sense of all the different Books of the Bible? "Our Father's Plan" is a 13-episode program that walks through salvation history from Genesis to Revelation using the chronological narrative of the Bible. Dr Scott Hahn and Jeff Cavins present the Bible to us as a Catholic library in an easy-to-follow series that will increase your understanding and knowledge of God's plan for humanity. There will be valuable group discussions after the videos. Light refreshments will be served.

We will show this at 2 different times, so **PICK THE TIME** that is best for you.

When: **Mondays**, November 18 thru February 24 --- 7:00 – 8:30 PM - in the Holy Cross Parish Center

Or: **Wednesdays**, November 20 thru February 26 -- 9:15 – 10:45 AM – in the Holy Cross Parish Center

The Bible Study is free! A workbook is NOT necessary, but please bring your Bible and a highlighter. We do have a few Bibles for your use if you do not have one of your own. Please join us and bring a friend! If you attend the Wednesday morning session, please also join us for 8:30 Mass that morning.

Please note: We will not meet during the Christmas weeks of December 22 and 29.

<u>To save a seat</u> or for more information, contact Pattie Stevens at <u>pattiejstevens@comcast.net</u> or 484.868.8571.



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