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holycrosscatholics.org**

Parish and School Staff

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Steven W. Kiernan, Pastor
Deacon Thomas Taylor

PARISH OFFICE

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contactus@holycrosscatholics.org

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RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE

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Kelly Meliti, Director of Religious Education
Linda Ryan, Administrative Assistant

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

(610)-626-1709

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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 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.

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.

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



From the Pastor

Sunday January 7, 2024

Several parishioners were confused that New Year's Day wasn't a Holy Day of Obligation this year. The situation with the holy days is a bit confusing to keep track of, so here's a brief explanation. In 1991, the US Bishops established six Holy Days of Obligation for the USA: (1) January 1: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; (2) Ascension Thursday; (3) August 15: Assumption of Our Lady; (4) November 1: All Saints' Day; (5) December 8: Immaculate Conception of the BVM; and (6) December 25: Christmas.

At the same time, they also established that if January 1, August 15, or November 1 fall on a Saturday or Monday, then the day is not observed as a Holy Day of Obligation. As I understand it, the rationale was that two days of obligation in a row could be a burden, not just to the people, but especially for priests. Having just celebrated six Masses in 48 hours, I can appreciate the sentiment. At least I only have one parish/church. But I can't imagine the exhaustion of priests who have to care for multiple places. I know of a place where two priests cover eight churches, all 10-30 miles apart from one another. The normal Sunday routine has to be demanding enough, let alone doing it two days in a row.

So, three of the six holy days aren't days of obligation when they fall on a Saturday or Monday. The Immaculate Conception, Christmas, and the Ascension are always Holy Days of Obligation, regardless of the day of the week on which they fall.

Well, sort of. In 1999, the US Bishops decided that each Ecclesiastical Province (Church admin-speak for a regional grouping of dioceses) could decide to transfer the Ascension to the next Sunday if the bishops of the region decided to do so, which has happened everywhere except Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Nebraska. There's also a unique situation we'll see this year with the Immaculate Conception. When December 8 falls on a Sunday, the 2nd Sunday of Advent takes precedence. The celebration of the Immaculate Conception is moved to the 9th, but without an obligation to attend Mass. But if December 8 naturally falls on a Monday, there is an obligation to attend Mass.

Confused? Understandably. There is logic and reasoning behind the way things are, even if at first glance it seems like convoluted mess. Lots of people (clergy and laity) are happy to spout an opinion on "how it ought to be." My job is to try and explain what is. Hopefully the above did that.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Reading I: Isaiah 60: 1-6

The prophet announces that all parts of the world will come to Zion to rebuild Jerusalem. Then throughout land the glory of the Lord will shine forth.

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

Paul's chief insight into the mystery of Christ is that Gentiles are to be recognized as full participants in the life of the Church.

The Gospel: Matthew 2: 1-12

The special personages in this episode are the magi, or wise men, who come to visit Jesus. Over time, Christianity has made them into kings, numbering them as 3 because of the number of gifts they presented to the Child. Above all, they symbolize the Gentile world coming to the Jewish Christ.

Masses for the Week

MONDAY, JANUARY 8

8:30 AM - No Mass

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

8:30 AM - Neil McCrossen

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

8:30 AM - Ted Anderson

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

8:30 AM - Those Enrolled in the Memorial Fund

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

8:30 AM - Eric Eisenman

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

8:30 AM - No Mass

4:30 PM - Leo & Jane Conway

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

8:30 AM - The People of Holy Cross

11:00 AM - Frank Parr (15th Anniv.)

The Corner

Brought to you by your Evangelization Team

This time of year is a great opportunity to reach out to others and practice hospitality. In the words of St Paul:

“Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for some have entertained angels unawares.” ---Hebrews 13:1-2

Sanctuary Lamps

This week's Sanctuary Lamp intention is for:

Church: Alice Loftus

Chapel: Frank Feczko, Jr.

Collection Information

Weekly Collection, December 31

Due to the New Years Holiday

the numbers for the Sunday

Collection were not available at the

time of Bulletin submission.

Pray for the Sick

Consiglia Borreli	Richard McCullough
Lyndi Butler	Larry McCusker
Mary Ann Carroll	Francis Murray
George Dickinson	Charlotte O'Leary
Bob Frankenberger	Paige O'Leary
Dawn Gibbons	Katherine Patrone
Carolyn Henderson	Mary Rafferty
Steven Henderson	Ronnie Sidebottom
Jimmy Keating	Joseph Sindoni
Natalie Giorgio Kitts	Adeline Sulpizio
Ken Kull	Jean Super
Mary Kull	Valerie Thompson
Kendall Lambert	Betty Tomczyk
Alice Loftus	Rosemarie Colaberdino
Deacon Joe Gousie	Madalyn Parr
Lee Anne McGough	Carter Claire Walton
Joann Marks	Mike Calbertta
Maryanne McCauley	Alexander Passquini
Matthew Bannon	Melissa Dunsee
Mary Ann Nero	Mildred Mancini
Jack McGough	Susan Cortese
Bill Homony	Andrea Emilia Bernabey
Mary Ellen Sweeney	

Thank You

The Holy Cross Knights of Columbus wish to thank all of you who have recently supported our Pancake Breakfast, Pretzel Sale and Cemetery Blanket/Door Wreath Sale. Your support and generosity are greatly appreciated. We are truly blessed to have so many who continually support us.

School News

Our students are hard at work in their academic studies and perform virtuous and charitable works to help others. At our First Friday Mass we acknowledged our students who received the Virtue Award of Respect for the Month of November. The virtue for December is Generosity: Giving without counting the cost. To help practice and strengthen this virtue, we currently have charitable opportunities writing cards for the elderly which will allow students to complete works of mercy and offer it to God.

Santa Clause came to visit Holy Cross students on Wednesday, 12/06, to celebrate the feast of St. Nicholas. He and his helpers left a small treat for every student.

Friday, December 8, our students received their first trimester report cards. We are so very proud of all the hard work from our students and their teachers.

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

Winter Bereavement Support Group

St. Bernadette's Church

Starts: Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

Time: 7:00 to 8:30 Tuesday evenings for 8 weeks

Where: The Wright Center, 1st Floor, St.

Bernadette's Church, Harper Ave. Drexel Hill, Pa, 19026. Park in lot between School and Church on Harper Ave.

The program is led by an experienced facilitator. It is open to adults, 18 and older, who have experienced the death of a family member or friend. Eight-week commitment is encouraged. Reading material will be available. There is no fee for the program and the program is non-denominational.

For more information and registration call George Salloom @ 610 306-0252 or email- georgesalloom@hotmail.com.

IHM Conference Center

Movie With Meaning: "Gifted Hands: The Ben Carson Story"

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

1:00 p.m. (Lunch at 12:00 noon)

Stipend: \$25

Inspired by his mother to never give up, Detroit native Ben Carson overcomes poverty and prejudice to become a neurosurgeon. Starring Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Kimberly Elise

Please register by calling 610-581-0120 or emailing S. Marie at ihmconferencecenter@gmail.com

Food Pantry Update

Thanksgiving is fast approaching... we have so much to be grateful for... all of you, Our Holy Cross CCD students, St. Francis schoolchildren (who ran a food drive to benefit our pantry just last week). We recently received a significant donation from Acme Food Stores (please Thank an Acme cashier next time you shop at our Clifton Hgts. store), Buckley Cable, Americare, Mainline BMW, Devon Mercedes, Union Local 2011, and our many anonymous donors.. you know, it takes a village...

Some important dates this month...

On Nov. 12th, St. Francis SVDP and St. Kevins Knights of Columbus (and HC KofC will help) with collecting Thanksgiving food items to help our pantry.

On Nov. 15th, we will do our turkey distribution (while supplies last), and

On Nov. 22nd, the Pantry will be closed as our volunteers prepare for our own family meals.

If you are able, we need additional turkeys or chickens, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and items you would prepare for your families for the big day... If you are able to assist and unable to drop off, please call Ellie Epperson at 610-960-6989 and we will gladly arrange for your donation pickups. You can also drop off, we have bins outside the entrance of the pantry or you can hand deliver on Wed. 11/8 or 11/15 starting at 1 p.m.

Just a reminder, if you know anyone in need of food in Delco, please let them know we are open Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:30.

In case we haven't told you lately, we Appreciate your prayers, generosity and your overall support.

God Bless All of You,

Your Friends from the SVDP Holy Cross Food Pantry Team

Divine Mercy Retreat

April 5 - 7, 2024

\$275 in person, 3 days, 2 nights and \$75 virtually

This is a co-ed Retreat

Assumption and Immaculate Conception Halls

Check in at 4:00 PM on Friday

Retreat ends with the 3:00 PM Divine Mercy Sunday

Sign up: www.malvernretreat.com/events/divine-mercy-2024/

St. Francis Players Present Meredith Willson's "The Music Man!"

The St Francis Players are pleased to announce that our 2024 and 63rd Annual SFP Production will be Meredith Willson's "The Music Man". Come join us as Professor Harold Hill charms the residents of River City, Iowa to start a children's band and causes a whole lot of "Trouble"! We are thrilled to be able to bring back this timeless family classic to the St. Francis stage!

We will have six (6) performances held on 4/19, 4/20, 4/21 and 4/26, 4/27, and 4/28.

For more information regarding auditions and other special events regarding the St. Francis Players, please visit our website at www.stfrancisplayers.org

Scrip Program

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

Three Parish Book Club

Due to the Christmas holiday, the Book Parish Book Club will meet next at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 31, 2024, at the Holy Cross Church Parish Center. Members will share reading recommendations and will discuss both the December and January selections. You need not have read the selected book(s) to attend the meeting. If you would like more information, or if you would like to join us, please contact Joy Van Berg at joyvanberg@gmail.com or at 610 328-2095.

December

This Is My Body by Bishop Robert Barron

January

My Anointing Echoes by Father Douglas Mckay

February

In The School of the Holy Spirit by Jacques Phillippe

Winter Bible Study

The Holy Cross Bible Study Team will present a **FREE** 14 week deep-dive into the Gospel of Mark. We will concentrate on this single book of the Bible. Workbooks will be provided for this series. There will be short videos from Dr Tim Gray and valuable group discussions. Light refreshments will be served.

We will show this at 2 different times, so PICK THE TIME that is best for you. If you choose the Wednesday morning option we begin right after the 8:30 Mass, so please consider joining us for Mass that morning. Come a few minutes early to meet others and to get your seat. Please join us and bring a friend!

When: Mondays, November 6 thru February 19, 7:00 – 8:30

PM - in the Holy Cross Parish Center

Or: Wednesdays, November 8 thru February 21, 9:15 – 10:45

AM – in the Holy Cross Parish Center

--- Note: We will take 2 weeks off during the Christmas holidays

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

FORMED

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Did you know that the National Eucharistic Congress will be held in Indianapolis in July? And did you also know that Philadelphia is one of the stops along the "Seton" route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage on the way to Indianapolis? Now is a great time to begin exploring "Eucharist" on FORMED (here is just one example) to prepare your hearts for this historic event. There are also some exciting feast days this month, including St John Bosco on January 31. Signing up for FORMED is EASY and FREE!

1. Just go to FORMED.org or download the FORMED app
2. Enter your ZIP code and select "Holy Cross" from the drop-down menu and press "Next"
3. Register with your name and email address
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using FORMED. No password is needed and you will have full access to the site.

ENJOY!

Eucharistic Adoration



The Eucharist is described in the Catechism as the "source and summit" of our faith. Finding the time to go to Adoration can be difficult. But if you can make it happen, committing to regular Adoration with an open heart can have some surprising results.

A Holy Hour before the Most Blessed Sacrament repairs for evils of the world. (St. John Paul II)

A Holy hour makes our souls more glorious and beautiful in heaven. (Mother Teresa)

The greatest love story of all time is contained in a tiny white host. (Venerable Fulton Sheen)

I ask everyone to intensify in love and devotion to the Eucharistic Jesus. (Pope Benedict XVI)

We are in need of visitors and hourly adorers to maintain our current adoration schedule. Please consider keeping Jesus company in our intimate chapel here at Holy Cross Parish which is open weekdays 9:00am to 7:00pm. For more information, call Eileen at 610.213-3369.



INSTITUTE OF
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PATRISTICS 101

Apostolic and Ante-Nicene Fathers

THURSDAYS, JANUARY – JUNE 2024

8:00 - 9:15 PM ET

■◀ LIVE ONLINE COURSE

In this course on the Fathers of the Church, we shall delve deeply into the writings of the first Christian centuries (up to the Council of Nicaea in 325) and become acquainted with such figures as St. Clement of Rome, St. Ignatius, St. Justin Martyr, St. Irenaeus, Tertullian, St. Cyprian, and Origen, and come to an appreciation of their specific genius and their legacy for our own generation. We shall also devote some time to the principles of the theological discipline of Patristics, which in turn will shed light on the usefulness of the Fathers in our own theological reflection.

 John Pepino, Ph.D.



Dr. John Pepino is a professor of Greek, Latin, History, and Patristics at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Denton, Nebraska. His Master's degree is in Classical Greek and Latin and his Doctorate is in the Fathers of the Church. He has published on the Fathers of the Church and on contemporary Church History (particularly Vatican II and the liturgy in the twentieth century) in both scholarly and popular outlets.

To register, please visit [InstituteofCatholicCulture.org/events](https://www.instituteofcatholicculture.org/events)

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*Valid thru December 31, 2023. Valid on advance planning cemetery space purchases only in specific areas of the cemetery. See location manager for details. Monthly payment is subject to down payment, interest rate and term. Minimum of 5% down payment required. Cannot be combined with other offers. Excludes prior purchases. Vault and Opening and Closing required for Burial. Limit 10 cemetery spaces per family.

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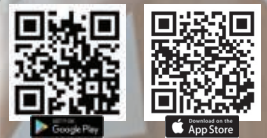
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