

December 20, 2015

**Fourth Sunday
of Advent**



*Joyful Anticipation
of the Messiah*



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Parish Stewardship

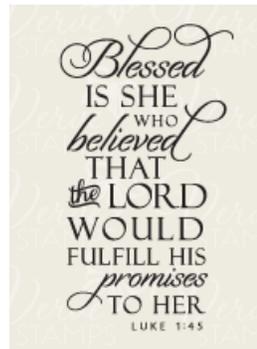
This Week's Supplemental Collection

This weekend we will collect for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your gift supports the day-to-day care of roughly 35,000 senior religious. Please give generously.

Due to early publishing deadlines, the collection amounts will be in a future bulletin.



Fourth Sunday of Advent



There is a certain paradox for those "blessed" by the Lord. Mary was given the "blessedness" of being the mother of the Son of God. That blessedness also would become a sword which pierced her heart as her Son died upon the cross. Anselm, a great teacher and Archbishop of Canterbury, spoke these words in a homily: "Without God's Son nothing could exist; without Mary's son, nothing could be redeemed." To be chosen by God is an awesome privilege and responsibility.

Mary received both a crown of joy and a cross of sorrow. Her joy was not diminished by her sorrow because it was fueled by her faith, hope, and trust in God and his promises.

Jesus promised his disciples that "no one will take your joy from you".

The Lord gives us a supernatural joy which enables us to bear any sorrow or pain and which neither life nor death can take away.



**Holy Cross Church
Christmas Mass Schedule**



Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th



3:00 PM Church

4:30 PM Church

6:00 PM Church

11:00 PM Church



Christmas Day, Friday, December 25th

10:30 AM Church

and

12:00 PM Church

Charismatic Healing Mass



The Healing Shepherd Prayer Group invites all to a Charismatic Healing Mass on Monday, December 28th, at **8:00 PM in the Church**. Our Celebrant will be Fr. John Campoli.



Parish Office Hours

Holy Cross Parish Office will be closed for Christmas, beginning Wednesday, December 23. Our office will be open again on Monday, December 28th.

Remember Holy Cross Church At Christmas

Please be as generous as your means allow in the Christmas collection this year. Your generosity is needed and appreciated.



My Christmas Gift

Amount _____ No. _____
Name _____

Come Home For Christmas



We are all called to evangelize and the Christmas season is a wonderful opportunity to invite someone to mass on Christmas. Do you know someone who doesn't attend mass frequently, or at all? Invite them to worship with you! Be patient and listen to the response, but be insistent and welcoming.

Fourth Week of Advent



We praise you Lord, and thank you for the people throughout the generations who have passed down to us the story of your birth and the truths of our faith. May this fourth candle be like the passing of the flame, by which we take on the responsibility of handing on the light of faith to future generations, so that your life and your example will remain with us until the end of time.

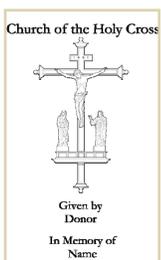
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament



We will not have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Wednesday, December 23rd or Wednesday, December 30th. We will resume our regular schedule of Adoration on Wednesday, January 6th.



Hymnals for Our New Church



Many bookplate dedications are still available for the new hymnals in Holy Cross Church. Download the form from the Parish website or call the Parish Office to have a hymnal inscribed and dedicated. The donation amount is \$20 per hymnal.

*On this last Sunday of Advent,
we quietly reflect on the mystery.
We rest in awe, in wonder,
at how our God entered our world
and came to be with us.
We pause to receive the gift
offered us: that the Spirit of God
will open up our lives
and that Jesus will really
come into our hearts.*



Faith in Our Future



The Holy Cross Parish Core Team attended a Regional Training Session at St. Anselm's in Tinton Falls entitled *Faith in Our Future* on Wednesday, November 18.

In a letter from Bishop O'Connell he states "*Faith in Our Future* has become one of the greatest priorities for our Diocese because so much has changed within our four counties and we can only build a hopeful, vibrant and mission-focused future here with all of our parishes and every member of our Catholic community working together and supporting one another.

That is what *Faith in Our Future* is all about."

The Goals for Faith in Our Future are to:

1. **Strengthen and Enliven** the parishes of the Diocese as well as Diocesan sponsored organizations and ministries.
2. Explore **new models of leadership** in parishes and ministries in institutional settings (schools, hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, etc.) so that we can prepare for and embrace the future and the changes it will bring because of so many factors beyond our control (i.e. reduction in the number of priests and religious available to serve us) over the next few years.
3. **Improve our stewardship** of personnel, finances, and facilities and other parish and Diocesan resources.
4. Establish **collaborative relationships** among the parishes and ministries for the Diocese that will build upon the Gospel to re-evangelize the local Church, especially for those who live on the fringes of the Church, those who have drifted away for one reason or another as well as those who do not yet know Christ.
5. Provide for pastoral ministry to **Hispanic Catholics**, the fastest growing segment of our Diocesan population, within all our parishes and organizations.

The Core Team will continue to communicate with parishioners and seek your input as we pursue these goals.



Memorial Votive Candles

December 18th thru December 25th



Dr. Donald Cuccia (Family)

Dec'd. members of the Loftus-George Family (Family)

McCue Family & Michael Haddad (Joan McCue)



*We have prepared
our homes and church
for Christmas, Lord.
Now help us prepare
our hearts.*

The Octave Before Christmas and The O Antiphons



The octave before Christmas shifts Advent into a reflection on the coming celebration of the birth of our Savior. The prayers now recall the humanity and divinity of Jesus. Special verses called "O Antiphons" provide the most strikingly beautiful feature of these days before Christmas. Composed for Evening Prayer, they appear as the Gospel acclamation at daily Mass. Each antiphon calls for the coming of Christ by a different title, all echoing the Messianic prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures.

December 20 – "O KEY OF DAVID"

The one who holds the key of David opens and closes with absolute authority. We salute Christ as the personification of authority, the one whose judgment we both fear & welcome.

December 21 – "O RADIANT DAWN"

This applies the image of the "rising sun" to the Savior. On the darkest days of the year, it calls for the sun to shine with the light of life.

December 22 – "O KING OF NATIONS"

Even though Jesus focused on Israel during His ministry, He charged the Apostles to bring His message to the ends of the earth, thus fulfilling the prophecy that the Messiah would unite the people of the world.

December 23 – "O EMMANUEL"

Summing up the theme of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus appears by this title at the beginning and promises "to be with us" until the end of time.

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 19

9:00 AM (C) Frances J. Coughlin (M/M Dan Walsh)
5:00 PM (C) Jerry Tortora (M/M Nick Caliendo)

Sunday, December 20

8:00 AM (C) Charles Henderson, III (Tony Gardella)
10:30 AM (C) Catharine "Kit" Crowley (Smith Family)
12:00 PM (C) Rosalie "Dit" Eadon (M/M Brian George & Fam.)
5:00 PM (C) Scotty McCormick Kelty (M/M Dennis Lynch)

Monday, December 21

9:00 AM Brett Alcaro (M/M Gene Harscar)

Tuesday, December 22

9:00 AM Carlos Diaz (M/M Robert McGinty)

Wednesday, December 23

9:00 AM Priest Intention

Thursday, December 24

9:00 AM Martin & Dolores Loftus (M/M Brian George)
3:00 PM Arline Palmieri (Family)

And Donald Burns (Family)

4:30 PM Sister Rose Anthony Giunco (Tony Gardella)
6:00 PM McCue Family & Michael Haddad (Joan McCue)
11:00 PM For the Sick and Elderly of Our Parish

Friday, December 25

10:30 AM Angela Sabbia (Family)
12 Noon Betty Kenney (Bill Kenney and Family)

Saturday, December 26

9:00 AM (C) For People With Disabilities
5:00 PM (C) John V. Ellis (Mary Ellis)

Sunday, December 27

8:00 AM (C) William Cook (Family)
10:30 AM (C) Dec'd. members of the Shea Family (Family)
12:00 PM (C) For the Homebound
5:00 PM (C) Thomas Daly (M/M Dennis Lynch)



Please Pray for the Sick of the Parish

Catherine O'Malley, Ann Connor, Eleanor



Blass, Sophia Gonzales, Nora Goldschlager,

James Mueller, Josephine McCormack,

Joey Weikel, Sarah Dey, Ian Silkowski,

Jack Preston, Jake Paschen, Ray Knierim, Maria & Ben Mauloff, John Wizeman, MarisaMurphy, Fred Towers, Ralph Stauffer, Richard Prinzi and Hudson Gartland.



Calendar at a Glance



Monday, December 21st

Healing Shepherd Prayer Group 7:30 PM (HCS)

Tuesday, December 22nd

HCS Christmas Show, 7 PM

Wednesday, December 23rd

Holy Cross Parish Office Closed

HCS Noon Dismissal

Thursday, December 24th

Holy Cross School & Parish Office Closed

Christmas Eve Masses in the Church

3:00 PM, 4:30 PM, 6:00 PM & 11:00 PM

Friday, December 25th

Christmas Day Masses in the Church

10:30 AM and 12 Noon

Saturday, December 26th

Mass 9 AM, Confession and Novena after Mass



Sunday, December 27th

Feast of the Holy Family

Regular Sunday Mass Schedule

Monday, December 28th

Charismatic Healing Mass 8 PM (Church)

Thursday, December 31st

Holy Cross Parish Office Closed

Vigil Mass in Church, 5:00 PM

Friday, January 1st

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

9:00 AM Mass in the Church

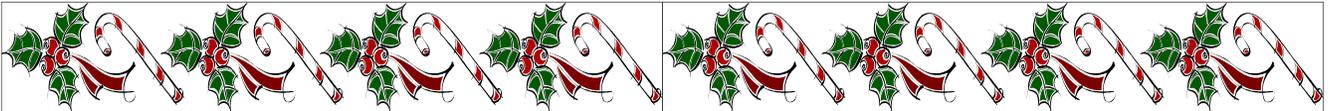
Saturday, January 2nd

Mass 9 AM, Confession and Novena after Mass

Sunday, January 3rd

Feast of the Epiphany

SOR Classes



Diocesan World Marriage Day Dinner Dance

The Department of Youth, Marriage and Family Life will host the Annual Diocesan World Marriage Day

Mass and Dinner Dance on Saturday, February 13, 2016 at St. Pius X Parish in Forked River.

Married couples of all ages will gather for the celebration of the Eucharist with the Community of St. Pius X Parish

at 4:00 PM. Msgr. Thomas Gervasio, Vicar General of the Diocese, will be the main celebrant for Mass.

Immediately after Mass, appetizers will be served followed by a buffet dinner and dessert; an inspirational talk

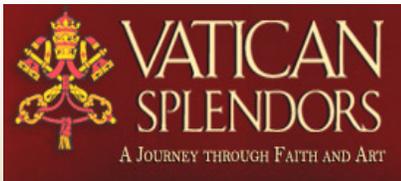
by Fr. Jim Grogan, DJ, Dancing and much more. The cost is \$75 per couple. Group reservations are available

(4 couples per table). Register at www.dioceseoftrenton.org/worldmarriageday or call Jossie at 609-403-7151.

Holy Cross Parish Trip ~ Monday, January 18, 2016

We are pleased to announce an upcoming Holy Cross Parish Trip to

The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, PA. The bus will leave the Holy Cross parking lot at 8 AM and return at 5 PM. Trip includes transportation, a tour of the exhibit in the morning and admission to the rest of the museum for the remainder of the day. We will leave Philadelphia at 3:30 PM. The cost is \$40 for an adult and \$15 for a child. Seating is limited, so please sign up early.



Vatican art, history, culture and religion are presented through extraordinary works by masters including Michelangelo, Bernini, Parmigianino and Guercino, and objects dating back to the first century. From the venerated relics of Saint Peter and Saint Paul to Michelangelo's art and tools used in work on the Sistine Chapel, this exhibit comprises one of the largest Vatican collections ever to tour North America. Many items have never before been on public view.