

Holy Cross Parish ~ Župnija Svetega Križa



Welcome to Holy Cross Parish

750 Tahmore Drive,
Fairfield, CT 06825-2519

We extend a warm welcome to all newcomers. May you find our parish a place where your faith will be nourished.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Thursday: 9:00 am

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm

Sunday Masses: 10:00 am

Holy Day Masses: As announced

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Alfred F. Pečarič, S.T.L., *Pastor*

Mr. John Ertlmaier, CPA / *Bookkeeper*

Mr. William Sekelsky, *Finance Board Chairman*

Robert Kokorda., *President of Parish Advisory Board*

Mrs. Jackie Azarian, *Coordinatrix* – 203. 218.5525;

Mrs. Lory Moomjian, *Coordinatrix* – 203. 257. 1262

Organists: Anthony Sagnella, Esq. – *Sundays*

Mrs. Lori Golias – *Saturdays*

Prayer Request Line: Ann Marie Schiessl / 203.255.0866

Rectory: 203.372.4595

Parish Office: 203.372.4595 **Fax:** 203.372.4668

E-mail: holy_cross_church@sbcglobal.net

Parish Website: www.holycrosschurchfairfield.com

SACRAMENTS

Baptism: Preparation Class is by appointment only.
Arrangement for baptism will be made during the class.

Confession: Saturday, 3:45-4:15 pm and by appointment

COUNCIL & SOCIETIES

Parish Advisory Board: Quarterly – 7:00 pm

Finance Board: Quarterly – 7:00 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

MAŠNI NAMENI

Sat. Dec. 02 4:30 pm + Lucille Orloski – John and Helen De Caro

Sun. Dec. 03. 10:00 am + Deceased Members of the Lederer and Emler Families – Carolyn, Ed, and Bill

Mon. Dec. 04 9:00 am + Michael Fitzsimons – Richard and Kathleen Fitzsimons

Tues. Dec. 05 9:00 am + Deceased Members of the Schindler Family – Ana Schindler

Wed. Dec. 06 9:00 am + Allan Chomortany – His Loving Wife, Evelyn

Thur. Dec. 07 9:00 am + Marge Sabia – A Friend

Fri. Dec. 08 9:00 am + Diana Koskelowski – William Donovan and Nancy Sarner

5:30 pm Special Intention – Marie Csom

Sat. Dec. 09 4:30 pm + Anton and Marija Schadl – Kingsley and Margaret Gross

Sun. Dec. 10 10:00 am + Philip Cerrrone, Jr. – His Loving Wife Virginia and Children

MASS READERS

Sat. Dec. 02 4:30 pm Bob Kokorda

Sun. Dec. 03 10:00 am Evelyn Chomortany

Fri. Dec. 08 9:00 am Joe Csom

5:30 pm Bill Sekelsky

Sat. Dec. 09 4:30 pm John Adams

Sun. Dec. 10 10:00 am Bill Sekelsky

FROM THE PASTOR:

ACCOUNTABILITY SUNDAY: the Parish Financial Statements for the 2022 – 2023 period have been posted on our Parish website; to view please access: holycrosschurchfairfield.com.

THE HOLY ADVENT SEASON: begins this weekend December 2nd/3rd with the start of the 4:30 Vigil Mass initiating the Liturgical year of Grace of 2024. The Sunday Readings will follow Cycle B; the weekday Readings will follow Cycle II.

The color for Advent is violet which reflects the period of awaiting and preparing for the birth of the Messiah-Our Lord Jesus Christ. In this spirit of awaiting, the *GLORIA* is omitted during Advent Masses.

We are all reminded to observe Advent as the preparation for the Nativity of the Son of G_D which we celebrate at Christmas. Remember, despite all the secular trappings, Christmas is about the birth of the Holy Child-the Son of G_D made man, so, let us truly rejoice at the coming of the Light from Heaven Who illuminates our life with comfort, peace, and joy as we await His second coming at the end of the Ages, and, our entrance into the glory of Heaven.

The name "Advent" was adopted from Latin *adventus* "coming; arrival", translating Greek *Παρουσία* - *parousia*. In the New Testament, this is the term used for the Second Coming of Christ. Thus, the season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the "coming of the Messiah" from three different perspectives: the physical Nativity in Bethlehem; the reception of Christ in the heart of the individual Believer; and, the Eschatological Second Coming-at the end of the Ages.

According to Saint Gregory of Tours the celebration of Advent began in the fifth century when Bishop Perpetuus directed that starting with the St. Martin's Day on the 11th of November until Christmas, one fasts three times per week; this is why Advent was sometimes also named "Lent of St. Martin." This practice originated in the diocese of Tours and continued until the sixth century.

The Council of Macon held in 581 adopted the practice in Tours and soon all France observed three days of fasting a week from the feast of Saint Martin until Christmas. The most devout worshipers in some countries exceeded the requirements adopted by the Council of Macon, and fasted every day of Advent. By the time of Gregory the Great, (590 – 604) the Liturgical Advent season had been abbreviated to four weeks without the observance of obligatory fast.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION - SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION: is Friday, December 8th celebrating the event of the conception of Blessed Mary by her mother, St. Anne. From her mother's womb, Mary was chosen by Almighty G_D to reverse the sin of Eve by her humble and perfect obedience to the Will of G_D. It was through Mary that the Savior or the world was born.

There will be two Masses on Friday, December 8th: the usual 9:00 am Mass, and a 5:30 pm Mass. Mark your calendars and don't forget to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary for her role in our Salvation.

FEASTDAY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE: Tuesday, December 12th marks the final of four apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Juan Diego at Tepeyac, outside of Mexico City. As a result of these apparitions, Aztec human sacrifices were ended as many indigenous peoples accepted Christianity and were Baptized into the holy Christian Faith.

CHRISTMAS PANCAKE BREAKFAST/ RAFFLE: members of the Finance Board and Parish Raffle Committee invite you to the annual **Christmas Pancake Breakfast** on the fourth Sunday in December, the 17th following the close of the 10:00 am Mass. The breakfast features sausages, eggs, sweets, coffee, tea, and juices. The Raffle Committee is again sponsoring a Christmas Raffle of handsome prizes useful for the holidays. Prizes are on display in the Church hall. Tickets are available at the cost of \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00, and 12 for \$10.00. The drawing will take place after the 10:00 am Mass on Sunday, December 17th.

Our Parish Nurses will be conducting Blood Pressure screening-

FACE MASKS MUST BE WORN FOR THE SCREENING.

The next Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Finance Board, on Sunday January 20, 2024.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE/RAFFLE: we will be hosting a Christmas Parish Home Bake Sale the weekend of December 17th/18th in the vestibule of the Church, in conjunction with the Christmas Pancake Breakfast. Please help us make this bake sale a success, come to Mass, enjoy breakfast, and walk out with delicious Christmas treats.

CALLING ALL BAKERS: please bring in your favorite home baked cakes, cookies, nut/poppy seed rolls, pies and pastries and Struedels...during the week December 11 – 16th.

TIMES OF CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Sunday, Christmas Eve: 4:30 pm Vigil Mass
Monday, Christmas Midnight: 00:00 Midnight
Monday, Christmas Morning: 10:00 am

First Sunday in Advent/ Prva Adventna Nedelja

THE INFIRM: We pray for the healing & restoration of good health to all our infirm family members, friends, and Parishioners in particular:



Robert Balling, Anna Maria Barchetti, Alan Bedwell, Julianne Burany, Mary Lou Cahill, Martha Catel, Don DeMattia, Eileen Donohue, Melissa Doran, Dorothy Fejes, Lorraine Ferrone, Ian Gallagher, Joan Gerdson, Patricia Goyette, Linda Grzegowski, Debbie Hiergersol, Nancy Hocurscak, Vinnie Hurosach, Peter John, Mary Ann Koprivec, Louise Kranyik, Johnny Kuczo, Patricia Land, Pat Lenahan, Madalene Lennon, Eleanor Liskar, Gabriel Loeser, Michael Long, Lillian Makar, Raul Matamoros, Bonaventura Mauro, Patty Merola, Jackie & Tony Mitchell, Marc Pagnozzi, Paul Paris, Gregory Parsley, Amy Peloquin, Mary Ellen Peterson, Pete Peterson, Elizabeth Petrushonis, Lucille Piccirillo, Joseph Piliero, Frank Prokaly, George & Richard Prackup, Edward & Diane Raschke, Joel Rivera, Annette & Bernie Senderak, Michael Sheets, Katherine Vallone, KJ Waller, George Wilson, Melissa Yearington,

We commend to our prayers the souls of all the recently Deceased. May their souls and the souls of all the Faithful Departed through the Mercy of G_D rest in Peace. Amen.

Please pray for World Peace, for an end to all unrest throughout the world-especially the Middle East, and for the protection of all our soldiers, troops, and Servicemen, may Almighty G_D bless & protect them, from all evil, harm, & injury, and, return them safely home. Amen.

FEAST DAYS IN DECEMBER:

Sunday, December 3, 2023

First Sunday in Advent

Monday, December 04

St. John Damascene

Wednesday, December 06

St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myrna

Thursday, December 07

St. Ambrose Bishop

Friday, December 08

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Saturday, December 09

St. Juan Diego, Visionary

In Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday in Advent

November 18/ 19

Regular Collection: \$ 1,109.00

Maintenance Collection: \$ 677.00

Miscellaneous Collection: \$ 156.00

November 25/26, 2023

Regular Collection: \$ 1,306.00

Retired Priests Collection: \$ 319.00

Miscellaneous: \$ 77.00

December 3, 2023

HOLY ADVENT SEASON ADVENT I



The Holy Season of Advent has its origins in the 4th Century, when it became custom to celebrate a festival beginning on the Eve of St. Martin of Tours-November 11. This day falls 40 days before the celebration of the birth of the Messiah at Christmas. People all over Europe, esp. in France, celebrated this great feast with grapes and wine tasting (drinking) the new wine of the season.

Winemakers tasted each other's wine-eventually it became known as the day of the "*baptism of the wine*" an event which evolved into a major festival of eating, drinking and dancing, ending at midnight of the feast day. In the Slavic country (Slovenija) it came to be known as *Martinovanje*-or *St. Martin's Fast*-in honor of St. Martin. St. Martin Day then began a 40 day - 6 weeks-season of fast & abstinence similar to that of Lent.

The Church eventually named this period of fast & abstinence "*Adventus*" -Latin for "*the Coming*," anticipating the coming of the Messiah. During this time, all drinking, dancing, and eating of meats was forbidden, so as a means of atonement to prepare spiritually for the coming of the Messiah without temporal distraction, but with spiritual anticipation.

Although currently Advent has only 4 weeks as is represented by the Advent Wreath, initially, it was 6 weeks in length. The 4th Sunday in both Advent & Lent were seen as half way points in each season, when the harshness of the fast was mitigated or softened. These Sundays became known as *Gaudete* and *Laetare* Sundays respectively. Prior to these Sundays, the theme of the Readings is the call to await the coming of the Messiah-Our LORD, Jesus Christ. After these Sundays, the theme and the Readings focus on the Mysteries surrounding the birth, the Passion & Death of the Son of G_D respectively.

Hence, Advent is a time to reflect on our relationship with G_D, and a time to prepare to for the birth of His Son on the day we call "Christ's Mass" i.e., Christmas.

Unfortunately, in our day, Christmas has become a secular holiday, where vendors stress the commercial aspect of gift buying and giving to increase their profits, without any regard for the true reason of the season-the birth of the Son of G_D-the Messiah. Advent is a reminder and a call to focus, reflect and celebrate the beginning of Salvation with the birth of the Son of G_D-Jesus the Christ at Christmas. REMEMBER: Keep Christmas in Christ!