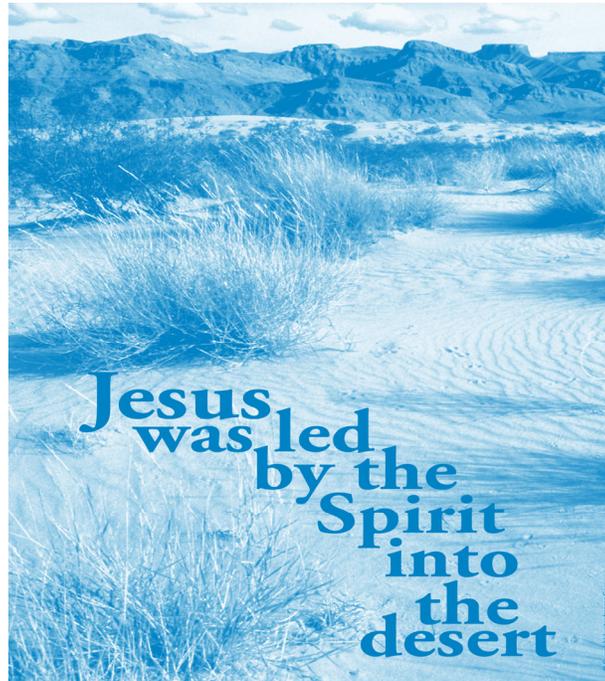


Our Lady of the Cross Parish Holyoke, Massachusetts



Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting our church! If you attend Our Lady of the Cross regularly and consider this your parish, please take a moment to register by contacting the parish office.

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday - Saturday: 8:30 am
Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am (Polish), 10:30 am

CONFESSIONS

Monday - Saturday: 8:00 - 8:20 am
Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 pm

Mater Dolorosa School: Grades K-8
3 & 4 year old pre-school program

Religious Education Program: Those children not attending a parochial school are expected to enroll.

Eucharistic Adoration: Friday 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Divine Mercy Devotion: 1st Sunday of month
2:00 pm Exposition; 3:00 pm Chaplet

Baptism: Last Sunday of each month at 11:30 am
Please call the parish office to register.

Matrimony: Call the office to make arrangements one year in advance of the wedding date.

Sacrament of the Sick: 2nd Saturday of month after the Vigil Mass. By request at anytime.

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound: Please call the parish office to receive Holy Communion.

March 5, 2017 **First Sunday of Lent**

Parish Office (413) 532-5661
Fax Line (413) 532-7889
Friary (413) 536-8832
E-mail: parish@ourladyofthecross.com
Website: www.ourladyofthecross.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 1:30 pm

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Albert Scherer, OFM Conv. Pastor	Dorothea MacNeil Director of Religious Ed.
Fr. Andrzej Brzezinski, OFM Conv. Parochial Vicar	Sr. Christine Mumbi, FMSA Bookkeeper
Fr. Stanley Sobiech, OFM Conv.	Linnea Williamson Secretary (413) 532-5661
Br. Frank Grimaldi, OFM Conv. Chaplain, Soldier's Home	Theresa Szumski Cemetery Manager
Linda Rex Principal Mater Dolorosa School (413) 532-2831	Joe DiMarino Organist & Music Director 508-517-2032
Marybeth Kass Parish Child Advocate (413) 313-6118	Mike Rodgers Robert Maziarz Maintenance

March 5 - First Sunday of Lent

Like Adam and Eve (1), Jesus was tempted, but did not sin (3). Our sinfulness (Ps) is acquitted through one man, Jesus Christ, in whom we are justified (2).

March 6 - Lenten Weekday

The command of the Lord (Ps) is clear: love one another (1), for "whatever you do to these least ones, you do it to me" (2).

March 7 - Sts. Perpetua & Felicity

May God's Spirit always inspire us how to pray (2) and be open to the Word (1) that the Father may be glorified (Ps).



March 8 - St. John of God

Nineveh heard the preaching of Jonah (1) and repented (Ps). The Word calls us to repentance as well (2).

St. John of God, died in 1550 in Granada; shepherd, soldier and entrepreneur before his conversion at age forty-two; laid foundation (1537) for the Order of Hospitallers, today numbering about 1,300 religious; patron of hospitals and the sick, of nurses and booksellers.

March 9 - St. Frances of Rome

If we petition in faith (Ps), we shall be heard (2), as was Esther (1).

St. Frances of Rome died in 1440; noblewoman, wife and mother; founded a community of Benedictine women oblates, committed to serving the poorest of the poor; patroness of widows and motorists.

March 10 - Lenten Weekday

The Lord forgives us (Ps) in the conversion of our hearts (1), and rejoices in the reconciliation of one to another (2).

March 11 - Lenten Weekday

We are called to love even our enemies (2), and thus walk in God's ways (1), following the law of the Lord (Ps).



The Altar Candle is burning
the week of March 5 for
+Giovanni James Guidi
From Family

Mass Intentions



Saturday, March 4

4:00 +Dolly Patrakis (1st Anniv.) – Daughter & Family

Sunday, March 5

7:30 +Elizabeth McKenna - Family
9:00 +Marta Legowski - Family
10:30 +Krystyna Urbanowicz - Mickey & Leo Murawski & Family

Monday, March 6

8:30 +William J. Dean III, M.D. - Family
+Jose Joaquim & Manuel Tavares - Family

Tuesday, March 7

8:30 +Zofia & Wladyslaw - Trzepacz Family
Those Buried in MD Cemetery

Wednesday, March 8

8:30 +John Szot - Family
Deceased Relatives of Parishioners

Thursday, March 9

8:30 +Catherine Dower - Friend, Doris Fortin
+Patrick Moskal - Paula Fic

Friday, March 10

8:30 +Sally Haddad - Dorothea MacNeil

Saturday, March 11

8:30 +Czeslaw & Maria Choiewa - Friends
4:00 +Secundo Cleto & Giovanni James Guidi - Family

Sunday, March 12

7:30 Seventh Birthday Blessings for Aiden
George Price - Great Grandma, Barbara Bernard
9:00 +Tomasz Rzasa - Family
10:30 +Adelle Zwirko - MD Rosary Society

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8-10, 15;
Mt 25:31-46
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19;
Lk 11:29-32
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a; Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22; 2 Tm 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

+Laurence Cournoyer

This Week at Our Lady of the Cross

- March 5:** 2:00 pm Exposition
2:30 pm UNITAS Meeting
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Devotions
March 7: 6:30 Historic Commission Hearing
March 8: 4:00-7:00 pm Spaghetti Supper
March 9: 9:15 am Evangelization Meeting
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
March 11: 5:00 pm Anointing of the Sick
March 12: 3:00 pm Polish Divine Mercy

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection for **February 26**

First Collection:

215 Envelope Users:	\$4,315.00
Loose Money:	\$415.00
15 Envelopes Mailed:	\$1,650.00
TOTAL:	\$6,380.00
Milk Money:	\$86.00

For the Month of February:

Renovation Fund:	\$3,040.00
Heat & Utilities:	\$4,820.00

Thank you for your support!

Annual Catholic Appeal

If you are a registered member of the parish, you should have received a letter from Bishop Rozanski and a brochure regarding this year's Annual Catholic Appeal. Extra brochures and donation envelopes are found in the vestibule of the church. Please consider making a donation to the ACA. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated!

Adoration & Divine Mercy Devotions

You are invited to join us this Sunday, **March 5**, for our Divine Mercy Devotions, beginning at 2:00 pm with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. At 3:00 pm, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, followed by Benediction. Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet is a beautiful way to deepen your relationship with the Lord this Lent.

Anointing of the Sick

On Saturday, **March 11** after the 4:00 pm Mass, we will offer the Sacrament of the Sick. The elderly, anyone who is seriously ill and those facing surgery may be anointed. This sacrament is a source of grace for individuals who are weak or ill. If you would like to be anointed, please sit in one of the front pews once Mass is finished. It is also helpful if you sit at the end of the pew.

Children's Homily

Our next homily given to children will take place on **March 12** at the 10:30 am Mass. The children who are present in church will be invited to come to the sanctuary and the priest will speak to them during the homily.

Faustina
MESSENGER OF DIVINE MERCY

Faustina: Messenger of Divine Mercy, the moving, live production performed by actress Maria Vargo and directed by Leonardo Defilippis of Saint Luke Productions, will be presented at Our Lady of the Cross Church on **Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.**

Experience firsthand the life and message of Saint Faustina whose personal encounters with Jesus have inspired a world-wide devotion to Christ's Divine Mercy. This drama also brings audiences a riveting modern story that makes Divine Mercy remarkably relevant and urgent for our world today. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 90 minutes, and is suitable for ages 13 and up.

Admission is \$12 for adults, and \$10 for youth ages 18 & under. **For tickets and additional information**, contact the parish office at (413) 532-5661 or www.ourladyofthecross.com.

Watch the trailer & learn more at
www.DivineMercyDrama.com

Mohegan Sun Casino Bus Trip Wednesday, March 15

Departing from Mater Dolorosa Church at 9:30 am and returning at 6:30 pm. The cost is \$30.00 per person and includes a \$15.00 food voucher and a \$20.00 voucher to be used on the wheels or certain tables. Please contact the parish office or email Jason at: jwillemain@ourladyofthecross.com

LAST CHANCE!!!

15th ANNUAL CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE

On Saturday, **March 25** the Diocese of Springfield will hold its 15th Catholic Men's Conference. Bishop Rozanski invites all men from ages 16 and up to participate. Once again, it will be held at Bellamy School in Chicopee. This year's speakers include: Sam Todzia, Mario Enzler and Sean Forrest. **Brochures are available at the doors of the church.** For more information and to register online visit our website: www.spfldmensconference.org. Also, check us out on Facebook: Diocese of Springfield Catholic Men's Conference. We hope to see you there!

Quiet Before Mass

Parishioners need to interact with one another in order to build a sense of community. People come to church to pray, however, and find it a distraction when individuals are talking. Please be considerate of those parishioners who are trying to recollect themselves before Mass. Your cooperation is appreciated!

RICE BOWL



This Lent our parish will once again participate in CRS Rice Bowl, a faith-in-action program that invites us to encounter anew ourselves, our neighbors and our God. Use your CSR Rice Bowl and Lenten Calendar daily to guide your Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

- Prepare simple meatless meals on Fridays throughout Lent, in solidarity with our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Be sure to visit crsricebowl.org to watch videos of the people and communities your Lenten gifts are changing through CRS Rice Bowl.

Rice bowls are available at the doors of the church.

Join the Choir for Lent

As the choir begins to prepare for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter a few more singers are needed. We need both men and women, but at the moment we especially need women. We try to make it as easy as possible to join. There are no auditions and no attendance requirements. **Rehearsals take place on Thursdays from 7 - 8:30 pm.** Choir members sing at the Saturday 4:00 pm Mass, and on Sunday mornings at 7:30 and 10:30 am. To join, come to the next rehearsal or speak with our music director.

Ways to Deepen Your Relationship With God

Stations of the Cross

Wednesdays ~ after the 8:30 am Mass
Fridays ~ Noon & 6:30 pm (Polish)

Confessions

Monday – Saturday: 8:00 am
Sundays: 11:30 am – Noon
Wednesdays: 5:30 – 6:30 pm
Fridays: 7:00 pm (Polish)
Saturdays: 3:15 – 3:45 pm
Or, by appointment with any of the Friars

Penance Service

Monday, April 3 ~ 7:00 pm

Daily Mass

Monday – Saturday: 8:30 am

Gorzkie Zale

(Polish Lamentations)

Sundays: 4:00 pm



Abstinence from Meat

The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat. The obligation to abstain from meat begins at fourteen (14) years of age. Although Catholics may excuse themselves for a just cause from this penitential practice, there is an obligation to substitute another penance.

Tickets on Sale NOW

110 Years of Mater Dolorosa School

Toast to Our Future Gala

Saturday, March 25 at The Delaney House

Live Auction

- Autograph ball by Boston Red Sox Xander Bogaerts
- Fire Truck Ride to School
- Police Car Ride to School
- Golf Package - foursome of golf at 4 different Western Mass Golf Courses
- Dinner at the OLC Friary
- Painting of Mater Dolorosa Church by Ray Larrow, Artist
- Dinner at The Delaney House: 5 course meal & wine with a Town Car by Michaels Limousine



Gold Raffle Prizes

- A basket of "Spirits"
- Samsung 48" Smart TV
- A Diamond Pendant!!!

Tickets are \$45.00 per person and will be on sale until March 10.

Get your tickets now for a great time and a great cause!!!

Tickets are available at the Parish Office.

For information call Nora Moreau at 315.1030.



From the Pastor

Dear Good People of Our Lady of the Cross,

The Beginning: A few days ago we began the season of Lent by receiving ashes on our foreheads. As I stated during my homily that day, this is only the beginning of a special time of grace to improve our relationship with the Lord. Traditionally prayer, fasting and almsgiving are the three pillars of Lent that help us draw closer to God. If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to think about some ways that you will pray, fast and give alms this Lent. Here are a few ideas:

- *Prayer:* daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, a few moments of quiet prayer each day
- *Fasting:* "giving up" something you enjoy, no snacks between meals, fasting from a sinful habit
- *Almsgiving:* using a Rice Bowl, making a donation to a charity

I also encourage you to make it a priority to experience God's mercy in confession. Let us make this Lent the best Lent ever by allowing the Holy Spirit to change our hearts and draw us closer to the Lord.

Parish Meeting: I am grateful to the 75 parishioners who attended the meeting last Monday evening and to the representatives from the Diocese for their presence. I thought the meeting was informative and also helpful in clarifying some questions that a number of individuals had regarding the Mater Dolorosa Church steeple. Again, thank you for attending this meeting!

Public Hearing: The Holyoke Historic Commission will be holding a public hearing on the demolition request this Tuesday evening. It would be very helpful if parishioners attended the hearing. So if at all possible, please make plans to attend. The attorney who represents the Diocese will speak to the Commission and hopefully parishioners will also be allowed to share their thoughts.

Toast To The Future: Mater Dolorosa School will be having a Gala on March 25. This is a major fundraiser for our school and we will be grateful for your support. If you have attended any of the Gala's in the past, you know that it is a fun event, with delicious food, great prizes and auction items. The deadline for purchasing tickets is quickly approaching, so if you are interested in attending, please get your tickets soon.

Coming Soon: We have made plans to have a live drama production on the life of St. Faustina here in our church on April 7. This is a one-woman show, professionally done that has been enthusiastically received in other churches throughout the country. There is more information found elsewhere in this bulletin. I hope that you will be able to join us.

Front Doors: We have been having problems with the front doors of the church for the past couple of weeks. Our custodians have repaired them as best they could but it appears that the doors will have to be replaced eventually. I was told that before the merger took place there was a discussion about replacing all of the church doors but it was not done because of the cost. This will be an item that we will eventually have to deal with.

Just About Completed: For the past couple of months, work has been taking place transforming the former parish offices in the Friary into a bedroom/sitting room suite for another friar. The renovation is just about completed and the project has turned out very well. I want to repeat what I have said previously and that is, the parish did not pay the cost of the renovation. This was a project that was financed by our Franciscan community.

Peace,

FR. ALBERT

Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship

Please join us next Sunday after Mass for a cup of coffee and a donut (or two!). This is a great opportunity to meet other parishioners. There is no charge but a free will offering will be gladly accepted to help defray the cost of the donuts.

Check It Out!

Please be sure to check the bulletin board in the vestibule of the church. Flyers from area parishes as well as notices from various organizations are posted on the bulletin board for your benefit.

Historic Commission Public Hearing

On Tuesday, **March 7** at 6:30 pm, the Holyoke Historic Commission will be holding a public hearing to discuss the demolition of Mater Dolorosa Church and Friary (and also the demolition of the Immaculate Conception Social Hall). The meeting will take place at the Holyoke Senior Center located at 291 Pine St. Parishioners encouraged to attend!

MD Spaghetti Supper

The MD spaghetti supper will take place on **March 8** from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. This is a fun family friendly event. Please support the school!