

Our Lady of the Cross Parish
23 Sycamore St.
Holyoke, Massachusetts 01040

Friary & Office

(413) 532-5661

Fax Line

(413) 535-1759

E-mail: parish@ourladyofthecross.com

Website: www.ourladyofthecross.com

OFFICE HOURS

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

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

Weekdays: 8:00 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

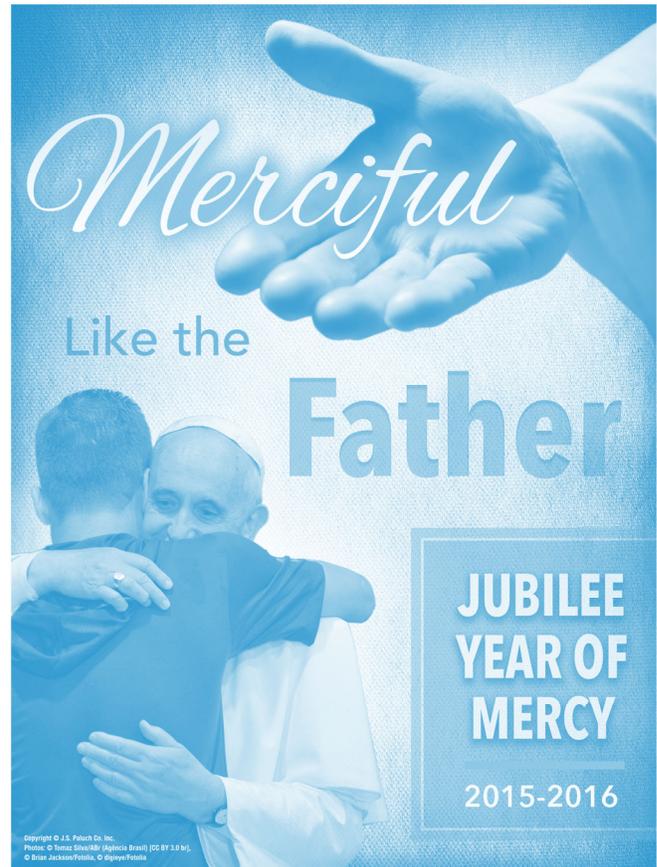
Divine Mercy Devotion: 1st Sunday of month
2:00 pm Exposition; 3:00 pm Chaplet

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

Matrimony: Call 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.



November 29, 2015
The First Sunday of Advent

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Albert Scherer,
OFM Conv.

Pastor

Fr. Mietek Wit,
OFM Conv.

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Stanley Sobiech,
OFM Conv

In Residence

Br. Frank Grimaldi,
OFM Conv.

In Residence

Chaplain, Soldier's Home

Linda Rex

Principal

Mater Dolorosa School
(413) 532-2831

Sr. Victoria Kamungu

Bookkeeper &
Ministry of Care

Linnea Williamson
Secretary

(413) 532-5661

Joann Wauczinski
Director of Religious
Education

(413) 437-3477

Theresa Szumski
Cemetery Manager

(413) 532-7889

Joe DiMarino

Organist &

Music Director

Mike Rodgers

Robert Maziarz

Maintenance

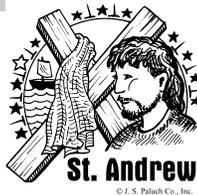
November 29 - First Sunday of Advent

We must be on guard (3) for the Day which is to come when all will be fulfilled (1). As we await the coming of Christ, let us love one another (2) observing his covenant and decrees (Ps).

November 30 - St. Andrew

Called by the Lord (2), Andrew preaches the Lordship of Jesus (1). His message is heard throughout the world (Ps).

Andrew died in the 1st century; brother of Simon Peter and disciple of John the Baptist; Tradition holds that he preached north of the Black Sea and in Greece, and died bound on an X-shaped cross at Petras, Greece; patron of Russia and Scotland; patron of the fishing industry.



December 1 - Advent Weekday

The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Jesus (2), the shoot of Jesse (1). He will bring justice and peace (Ps).

December 2 - Advent Weekday

We are invited to celebrate the Lord's victory banquet (1,Ps), his triumph over sickness and evil (2).

December 3 - Advent Weekday

The Lord is our rock and our fortress (1), our Savior (Ps). May our lives be built upon God's holy word (2).

December 4 - St. John Damascene

The Lord, our light and salvation (Ps), is able to cure us of our blindness (1) because of faith (2).

November 5 - Advent Weekday

The Lord sends the Twelve to proclaim the kingdom (2); peace and healing of the sick testify to its advent (1, Ps).

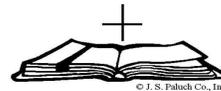
Holyday of Obligation

On **December 8** the Church celebrates the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, a holyday of obligation. Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 pm on December 7 and on December 8 at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 pm **in Polish**.

Mater Dolorosa School Mass

On Tuesday, **December 8** at 9:30 am the students of Mater Dolorosa School will gather for their monthly school Mass. The Liturgy will take place in the school gym and all parishioners are most welcome to attend! Please use the Social Center doors on St. Kolbe Drive.

Mass Intentions



Saturday, November 28

4:00 +Veronica Gadoua - Sisters

Sunday, November 29

7:30 +Joseph Soltys - Wife, Peggy

9:00 +Marta Legowski - Friends

10:30 + Gildardo Bustamante - Family

Monday, November 30

8:30 Everyone born on this day

+Val Kasprzyński - Paul Szalkucki

Tuesday, December 1

8:30 +Anna Mackiewicz - Mary Soltys

Souls in Purgatory - Ann

Wednesday, December 2

8:30 +Anna Mackiewicz - Irene & Mary Ann

+William Morton (10th Anniv.) - Family

Thursday, December 3

8:30 +Frank Makara - Daughter, Mary Ann

Friday, December 4

8:30 Souls in Purgatory - Ann

Saturday, December 5

8:30 +Val Kasprzyński - Paul Szalkucki

4:00 +Sharon Derosiert - Brian Chamberlain

Sunday, December 6

7:30 +Walter Skibel - Jim & Marriane Zawadzki

9:00 +Bertha Chmura - Frank Chmura

10:30 + Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bennis - Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8

Sunday: Bar 5:1-9; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6



+Stanley Tobiasz &
Veronica Kowalczyk



Dear Parishioners,

The Season of Advent: Today marks the beginning of Advent. Though our society encourages us to use this time to get ready for the arrival of Santa Claus, the Church encourages us to prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ. There are so many extra things to do at this time of the year; it may seem overwhelming to be concerned about one more matter. And yet, we need to find time for God.

In addition to the time spent shopping, baking and the sending of Christmas cards, would you be willing to spend a few additional minutes in prayer every day? Would you consider attending a weekday Mass? When you receive a Christmas card from someone, could you take a moment to say a prayer for that person? Could you make it a point to go to confession?

I noticed that some people in the neighborhood had their Christmas lights up and turned on a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving Day. I'm sure those same people will have their lights turned off and their trees taken down the day after Christmas. I encourage you to resist the urge to put up your Christmas decorations too early. Instead, try to savor the days of Advent and use this season as a time of spiritual preparation. Perhaps you could set up your stables and statues of Mary and Joseph but wait until Christmas to place the baby Jesus in the manger. I encourage you to take a few moments every day to meditate on your manger scenes, waiting with expectation for the birth of Christ.

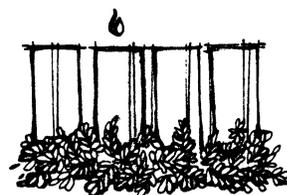
Prayer of Evangelizers: Beginning on the First Sunday of Advent, all churches throughout the Diocese of Springfield will recite a Prayer of Evangelizers during all Masses. The prayer cards are found in the pews. If you would like to take a prayer card home with you to recite privately, please help yourself.

Penance Service: On Monday, **December 14** we will have our Advent Penance Service at Blessed Sacrament Church. After a brief prayer service, everyone will have the opportunity to confess their sins to one of the many priests who will be present. Last year the turn-out for the Penance Service was very poor. Please mark your calendars now and make plans to join us. There is no better way to make room in your heart for Christ than by making a good confession.

Flying Again: You may have noticed that there hasn't been a flag in front of the church for the past several weeks. The torn flag needed to be replaced and when we attempted to do so, the rope on the flagpole disintegrated. I would like to express my thanks to Jimmy and Scott Curran for replacing the rope for us and to Ron and Jean Dietrich for purchasing a new flag.

Marian Consecration: For those of you who are reading the book *33 Days to Morning Glory*, you know that this "do it yourself retreat" ends on December 8 with a consecration to Mary. If you would like to make this consecration with other parishioners, we will give you the opportunity to do so after each Mass on December 7/8. This is only an option. If you would rather make the consecration privately, please feel free to do so.

Peace,
FR. ALBERT



Pierogis & Salad Dressing For Sale

On the weekends of **December 5/6** and **December 12/13**, we will be selling frozen pierogi after each Mass. Cabbage, apple and potato/cheese will be available. The cost will be \$7.00 a dozen.

We will also be selling homemade traditional Italian dressing/marinade for \$4.00 a bottle.

Adoration & Divine Mercy Devotions

Next Sunday, **December 6**, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place beginning at 2:00 pm. You are invited to spend some time in quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. At 3:00 pm, the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, followed by Benediction. All are most welcome!

Quotable Quotes

The measure of greatness is not the number of servants you have,
but the number of people you serve.

~Anonymous

This Week at Our Lady of the Cross

- November 30:** 6:00 pm Confirmation Classes
December 1: 6:00 pm School Finance Council Mtg.
December 2: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm Spaghetti Supper
December 3: 5:15 pm Youth Choir Practice
7:00 pm Adult Choir Practice
December 5: 8:30 am Religious Education Classes
December 6: 11:00 am Barnes & Noble Event
2:00 pm Exposition
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Devotions

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection for November 22

First Collection:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 245 Envelope Users: | \$5,238.00 |
| Loose Money: | \$307.00 |
| 14 Envelopes Mailed: | \$576.00 |
| TOTAL: | \$6,121.00 |
| Milk Money: | \$80.00 |

Thank you for loving and supporting our parish!

Welcome!

A special word of "welcome" to any visitors who may be with us today! We are happy that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are interested in becoming a parishioner, call the parish office. God bless!

Spaghetti Supper New Item!!!

The Mater Dolorosa Catholic School PTO is hosting its next Spaghetti Supper on **December 2**, from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm at the St. John Paul II Social Center. The \$6 price for adults (\$3 for kids!) includes spaghetti with homemade sauce, salad and garlic bread. Meatballs, cake and beverages are available, as well as a new item, *hot or sweet sausage links!* Meals are available for take-out. This is a fun, family-friendly, wallet-friendly community event - all are welcome. Hope to see you there!

Mater Dolorosa School Barnes & Noble Fundraiser

Please join us in supporting the Mater Dolorosa School Library at a fundraiser at Barnes & Noble in Holyoke on Sunday, **December 6**. Please take a flyer located at the entry ways of the Church, and show the voucher at time of purchase and a portion of all in store sales, including café, will be donated to the library. As is tradition the school children will sing Christmas Carols, there will be a holiday themed craft, and Mrs. Rex will read a Christmas story. If you are unable to be with us at Barnes & Noble, or you have a family member that lives far away, the voucher code can also be used online between 12/6 & 12/11, and a portion of all online sales using the code will also be donated to library. Thank you for your generous support of Mater Dolorosa School and Merry Christmas.

Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi Meatball & Sauce Sale

December 10, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
To make a purchase please stop by the convent at 1039 Northampton St. Container of six meatballs \$5.00 and container of twelve \$10.00

Please support the sisters and the upkeep of their home here in Holyoke!!

Angel Tree

When you take an angel from the tree, fill out the sign up sheet on the table and then purchase the requested Christmas gift. Gifts and gift cards need to be wrapped and the angel attached to the present. All presents must be placed under the Angel Tree by **December 13**. Thank you for your kindness!

Bus Trip to Wright's Farm & Our Lady of the LaSalette Shrine

Sunday, **December 13**

10:00 am - 9:00pm

(Departing from Mater Dolorosa Church parking lot)

The price of \$42.00 includes bus transportation, driver gratuity, lunch and gratuity at Wright's Farm Restaurant and a donation to the Shrine. Lunch will be served family style at noon and includes salad, baked chicken, pasta with marinara sauce, French fries, dinner rolls, coffee and ice cream. There will be time after lunch to visit the gift shop. Bring a cooler if you wish to purchase frozen chicken.

3:00 pm: Fr. Pat's concert

4:00 pm: Mass

5:00 pm Christmas lights turned on

7:00 pm: Departure to Holyoke

There will be plenty of time to walk around to view the Christmas displays of over 300,000 lights and to visit the shrine gift shop.

For more information and to sign up for the trip, please call Charlotte Martin at 636-6872 or Our Lady of the Cross parish office at 532-5661. **Only 14 seats left on the bus!**

Christmas Flower Memorials

In your packet of envelopes, you will find an envelope entitled Christmas Flowers. This envelope is for donations for Christmas flowers for the church. On the back of your envelope you will find space to write names of loved ones. A Christmas flower program will be made for Christmas with all your intentions on it. Please **NEATLY PRINT** all intentions on the back of this envelope or type a list and return them to the parish office no later than **December 15**.



Changes for Advent

This weekend the season of Advent begins. During Advent, the Gloria is omitted during weekend Masses. We will, however, sing the Kyrie, which is found on page 7 (Number 2) of the missalette. We will sing the alternate ending, which is actually the original version of the chant. The Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen will not be changed; they begin on page 162 of the missalette and are numbered 162, 163, and 166. For a change of pace, we will chant the Agnus Dei on page 172 of the missalette (Number 183).

Preparing for Christmas

Our choirs are starting to prepare the beautiful music for Christmas. Choir members will be providing music at all of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. We currently have about 20 singers involved in our music ministry but would like to have more so that there are enough singers at each Mass. If you love the joyful and inspiring music of Christmas, this would be a great time for you to join. Simply attend the next rehearsal.

This Week's Rehearsals

Youth and Family Choir: Thursday, December 3. Dinner at 5:15 PM in the parish hall followed by rehearsal until 6:45.

Adult Choir: Thursday, December 3. Rehearsal from 7:00 PM until 8:30 in the church.

Franciscan Mission Association

Many of our parishioners request Masses for their living and deceased relatives and friends. These Masses are celebrated in church on specific dates. This is certainly a praiseworthy and noble thing to do on behalf of loved ones.

In the parish office we also have available Franciscan Mission Mass Enrollments. When one enrolls a loved one in the Franciscan Mission Association, that individual is remembered in a series of Masses and prayers offered by the Friars. The offering that you make is given to the Mission Association.

For more than half a century, the Franciscan Mission Association has been the helping arm of our missionaries throughout the world. In Japan, Ghana, Zambia, Honduras, Philippines, Peru and Romania, our friar-missionaries have touched countless lives through their ministries. Your generous support of Franciscan Mission Mass Enrollments will help bring the message of Jesus to those who are less fortunate.

If you would like more information about these Mass Enrollments, please stop by the parish office.

Homebound Parishioners

If you or someone you know, is unable to attend Mass because of age or illness, and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please call Sr. Victoria at the parish office. Sister will be glad to make arrangements for someone to visit with Communion.

Cell Phones

Out of respect for the sacredness of our worship, please make it a habit to silence your cell phones before you enter church. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated by everyone.

Offertory Gifts

If you have requested that a Mass be offered on the weekend, we encourage you to present the hosts/wine to the priest at the offertory (during the collection).

We have reserved the pew directly in front of the small table (where the hosts/wine are located) for those who will be presenting the gifts.



If you see that no one is sitting in the reserved pew, please come forward to present the hosts/wine.

Treasures from our Tradition

Advent is a time rich in family traditions. Many of them have been so effectively absorbed into our culture that their religious origins are hidden. Some of us will set candles in our windows tonight. The custom began in Ireland during the so-called "penal" days, extending from 1691 to the "Catholic Emancipation" in 1829 and beyond. There were harsh penalties and fines for not attending the government church. Priests were forced into hiding, but people were resourceful and determined in guarding their faith. At Christmas, Irish families, particularly in the countryside, placed a lighted candle in the cottage window and left the door unlatched, hoping that a priest might come by and celebrate the Christmas Mass for them.

The possibility of the Mass coming into the family home gave rise to other Irish customs at the beginning of Advent. The cottage received a fresh coat of whitewash, the threshold was swept especially clean, and fresh curtains were hung in the windows. The house was scrubbed until it gleamed, including all the pots and pans, and all garments and table linens were laundered. The custom of the Irish window candle was so admired in Catholic Europe that it was widely copied there, and now finds a welcome in households that may not exactly expect a priest to wander in!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.