

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

**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.

**Friary & Office**

(413) 532-5661

**Fax Line**

(413) 535-1759

**E-mail: [parish@ourladyofthecross.com](mailto:parish@ourladyofthecross.com)**

**Website: [www.ourladyofthecross.com](http://www.ourladyofthecross.com)**

**OFFICE HOURS**

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

**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:** 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



***December 27, 2015***

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

**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

### December 27 - The Holy Family

Family life (1,Ps) is rooted in the unconditional love of God (2) as witnessed by the Holy Family (3).

### December 28 - The Holy Innocents

The massacre of the Innocents (2) bears witness to the blood of Jesus which cleanses us from sin (1) and frees us from death.

### December 29 - Octave of the Nativity

Jesus is the light (2) who scatters the darkness of hatred and sin (1) among all peoples (Ps).

### December 30 - Octave of the Nativity

Faithful to God's will (1), Anna gives thanks (Ps) for the deliverance of her people (2).

### December 31 - Octave of the Nativity

Anointed by the Spirit, we rejoice (Ps) in the truth (1) that the Word God's covenant (Ps) gloriously shines forth (1) in the birth of Jesus (3), son of David (2).

### January 1 - Solemnity

We seek God's blessings (1, Ps) as did Mary. Because of her Son (3), we can confidently call God, "Abba" (2)!



### January 2 - Sts. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

John testifies about one who is to come (2), one whose gift is nothing less than eternal life (1, Ps).

### Adoration & Divine Mercy Devotions

Next Sunday, **January 3**, 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!

### 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!

### No Adoration

We will not have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on January 1.



A happy and healthy New Year for all  
Our Lady of the Cross Parishioners

### Mass Intentions



### Saturday, December 26

4:00 +Roger & Beatrice Lepine - Daughters

### Sunday, December 27

7:30 +Michael & Nellie Szot - Family

9:00 +Marta Legowski - Friends

10:30 +Norman & Irene Bacon - Daughter Pauline

### Monday, December 28

8:30 +Waclaw Dziendzielewicz - Wife, Children & Grandchildren

+Andrew Legowski (5 year Anniv.) - Daughter

### Tuesday, December 29

8:30 Those Buried in MD Cemetery

+Velma Cook - Roger & Ellen Cook

### Wednesday, December 30

8:30 +Zofia Soja - Danuta & Family

+Julie Lawrence Parnell - Lacroix Family

### Thursday, December 31

8:30 +Irene & Walter Gonet - Son, Walter

4:00 +Lawrence Bara - Wife & Children

### Friday, January 1

7:30 Bridget Barrett (16th Anniv.) - Barrett Family

9:00 OPEN

10:30 For All Living & Deceased Benefactors - Barbara

### Saturday, January 2

8:30 New Year Blessing & Health for Janet Moynihan - Mary

4:00 +Joseph Payette - Family

### Sunday, January 3

7:30 OPEN

9:00 OPEN

10:30 +Claire Thibodeau - Anne & Ed Cote

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18

Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Thursday: 1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2, 11-13; Jn 1:1-18

Friday: Nm 6:22-27; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8; Gal 4:4-7; Lk 2:16-21

Saturday: 1 Jn 2:22-28; Ps 98:1-4; Jn 1:19-28

Sunday: Is 60:1-6; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-13; Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12



*The altar candle is burning  
the week of December 27th for  
50th Birthday Blessings for  
Mary Gubala  
from Frank & Muriel Gubala*



Dear Parishioners,

**The Holy Family:** All the busyness that unfortunately accompanies our preparations for Christmas has ended. On this Sunday after Christmas we are able to prayerfully reflect on the family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus. As we gaze on the beautiful manger scene in the sanctuary, we are reminded that Jesus was born into a family – a family that supported and loved each other through all the challenges of daily life.

Today, and in the days ahead, I encourage you take some time to prayerfully gaze on the manger scene in your own home. Gaze on the statues of Jesus, Mary and Joseph that you carefully placed in the stable. Allow the love that surrounds the Holy Family to touch your heart; to heal your broken heart; to soften your stubborn heart; to strengthen your weak heart.

**Grateful Heart:** My own heart is filled with gratitude as I think about all those parishioners who helped to make our celebration of Christmas so beautiful:

- Those who donated towards the poinsettias that adorn our sanctuary
- Linnea, our parish secretary, who typed the Flower Memorial Program
- The talented individuals who decorated our church
- Our altar servers, ushers, lectors and Eucharistic Ministers
- Those who contributed a little extra to our Christmas collection
- Ron & Jean Dietrich and the Holyoke Auxiliary Police for directing traffic on Christmas Eve
- The many parishioners who supported our annual Angel Tree
- Those who sent Christmas cards to the Friars and those who brought us gifts/goodies

I want to thank in a special way those of you who made a special effort to welcome our visitors. I appreciate your friendly smiles and your desire to make our visitors feel at home.

I also want to express my gratitude to our organist, Joe DiMarino, and all the members of the choir. They spent a lot of time the past several weeks rehearsing for the Christmas Masses and their efforts were worth it. The music and singing added so much beauty to our celebration of our Savior's birth.

To one and all, thank you! Be assured of a special remembrance in my prayers during this holy time of year.

Peace,  
FR. ALBERT



### **Celebrate the Birth of Jesus**

The San Damiano Group and youth from the Basilica of St. Stanislaus will host Greccio in Chicopee - A Living Nativity, taking place at The Basilica of St. Stanislaus on Sunday, **December 27th** at 5:00 pm.

See the birth of Our Lord through the humble eyes of St. Francis, as he recreates the first Nativity. This presentation is based on the story of St. Francis' Nativity on the mountain top of Greccio, Italy; a little town close to Assisi. This presentation will include LIVE ANIMALS and acting by the youth of St. Stanislaus Parish.

This event is FREE and open to the public. Following the event, there will be a reception at the Parish Hall and coats and winter garments will be collected for the homeless. Please join us for this great presentation and rediscover the real meaning of the Christmas season through Christ's birth in the Manger.

### **Quotable Quotes**

***"The time has come for new messengers of Christ,  
ever more generous, more joyful and more holy."***

~ Pope Francis, in a Nov. 30 tweet from his Twitter account, @ Pontifex.

## This Week at Our Lady of the Cross

**December 27:** Take & Eat Ministry

**January 1:**



**January 3:** 2:00 pm Exposition  
2:30 pm Unitas Meeting  
3:00 pm Divine Mercy Devotions

Because this bulletin needed to be at the printer early, the collections for Christmas and December 27th are not available. They will be in next week's bulletin.

### Second Collection

A collection will be taken up at all Masses next weekend for the **College of Our Lady of the Elms**. For more than 85 years, **Elms College** has been the Catholic college in the Diocese, and has remained faithful to its mission to provide a college education rooted in faith. The need for your support continues to be great, and we urge you to be as generous as possible. There is an envelope in your packet for this purpose. More information is available at the **Elms College** website, [www.elms.edu](http://www.elms.edu), or by calling 413-265-2446.

### Religious Give thanks

"We cannot begin to repay all who contribute," writes a Catholic sister. "So we pray to God, who is never outdone in generosity, to reward you." Heartfelt thanks for your donation to the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. May God bless you for your goodness!

### Holy Year of Divine Mercy

On December 8<sup>th</sup> the Holy Doors in St. Peter's Basilica were opened for the first time in 15 years. From now until November 20, 2016, Pope Francis is inviting Catholics and non-Catholics alike to open their hearts to God's mercy during an extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. As the Holy Father explained when announcing the Year of Mercy, "*At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of the Father's action in our lives.*"

Some practical suggestions for celebrating the Year of Mercy will be presented to you soon.

Our Sunday Visitor has designed an app to accompany you during the Year of Mercy. This app includes daily mercy reflections, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and everyday Scripture reflections. The app is free in the iTunes and Google Play app stores. Download it at [osv.com/yom](http://osv.com/yom).

## Charitable Considerations

During this Christmas Season, please consider Our Lady of the Cross Parish in your plans for charitable giving.

### SIGNIFICANT TAX DEDUCTIONS

Currently Accepting:

Insurance Policies  
Appreciated Stocks & Bonds  
Savings Bonds  
Houses  
House Contents  
Cars, Motorcycles, Boats  
Art Work & Precious Metals (gold, silver & coins)  
If you have any questions, call the parish office.  
Thank you for thinking of us!!!

### Parish Office Closed

**Due to the Christmas Season and New Year, the parish office will be closed on:**

New Year's Eve; Thursday, December 31  
Monday, December 28

### FAMILY LIFE

Family life is sacred, but it is not without trial. Perhaps this is the most important message we can glean from today's readings. If Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can trip up sometimes - can disconnect - then we shouldn't find it surprising when such things happen to us as well. And parents everywhere (children, too) can probably relate to - and take some solace in the Gospel's account of Mary and Joseph after Jesus explained why he stayed behind in the temple. They heard his words, Luke tells us, "But they did not understand what he said to them" (Luke 2:50). Amen! Nevertheless, Jesus does go back home with them, and continues to thrive under their care.



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### Contribution Statements

If you are interested in receiving a copy of your parish contributions for 2015, please fill this form out and return it to the parish office by mail or by way of the collection basket. You can also e-mail Linnea with requests at [parish@ourlady@gmail.com](mailto:parish@ourlady@gmail.com). Please print CLEARLY! Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Knights of Columbus Museum**

The Knights of Columbus Museum, at 1 State St. in New Haven, is featuring its 11th annual Christmas exhibition: Joy to the World: Crèches of Central Europe. The exhibit includes 75 nativity scenes on loan with origins in seven different countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovak Republic & Slovenia.

There are two related events that may be interesting to you:

Sunday, **December 27** from 12:00 pm - 3:00 pm  
Family Day with live music, crafts and refreshments.

Saturday, **January 16** "The Polish Nativity" a presentation by Connecticut artist and iconographer artist Marek Czarnecki.

The museum and its gift shop are open 10:00 am to 5:00 pm daily with free admission and parking. For more information, please call 203-865-0400.

### **Celebration of Ministries**

**Saturday, January 9**

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Westfield

All Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Sacristans, Ushers, Catechists, Choir Members, Music Ministers, Adult and Youth Altar Servers are invited to attend a Mass in their honor.

9:30 am Mass with Bishop Mitchell Rozanski

Refreshments will follow

11:00 am Fr. Warren Savage will give a presentation to help us in our evangelization efforts.

If you plan on attending, please call the parish office at 532-5661. If people are interested, we will car pool from OLC church.

### **Knights of Columbus Elder Council Spaghetti Supper**

460 Granby Rd., Chicopee

Benefits the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi

**Tuesday, January 5**

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Tickets: Seniors/Students \$5.00

Adults \$6.00

5 years and younger free

Menu: Spaghetti & Meat Sauce, Meatballs, Roll & Salad, Coffee, Tea, Lemonade & Bake Sale

### **Calendars**

Calendars for 2016 are now available at all the church doors and in the middle of the church. The calendars feature beautiful pictures of Pope Francis as well as various quotations from his homilies/talks. There are also calendars in Polish. These calendars were provided by Michael Usher at Messier Funeral Home. We thank Michael for his generosity to our parish family!

### **Support the Sisters Campaign Update**

The Sisters of St. Joseph are very grateful for all donations made to the campaign. Volunteer organizers, however, stress that more funds are needed to support retired Sisters. More than \$2.7 million in cash has been raised, along with pledges of \$2.2 million. Co-chairs Sheriff Michael J. Ashe, Jr. and W. Springfield native, John E. Foley, hope that with your help, the Springfield area goal of \$5 million in cash can be reached by the first of the year. Call 536-0853 to donate. Thank you for your support!

### **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

This New Year's Eve, at the turning of the year, you may catch a glimpse of the old year, a cartoon figure of a hunched old man with a sickle, Father Time. Where else but in this column could you learn that this is in fact a pope? December 31 was in the old calendar the feast of St. Sylvester. Legend says that Sylvester healed the Emperor Constantine of leprosy, and presided at the liturgy of baptism for the grateful emperor. In 314, he was chosen pope, and it fell to him to organize the peacetime church, free at last from persecution. He founded the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome.

In northern Europe "Sylvester Night" is a time of great parties with eating, dancing, and singing—recalling perhaps the joy of the church in the fresh air of Sylvester's papacy. In Poland, there was great fear as the year 1000 approached that an immense dragon would devour the earth and set fire to the heavens. The people prayed earnestly to St. Sylvester, trusting that the saint would not permit such suffering on his feast day. They've been celebrating ever since!

Many New Year's customs have pagan roots, like the British "First Footer" tradition. The idea is that the first person setting foot into your house in the new year determines the luck for the year ahead. The ideal first footer was not a bit like old Pope Sylvester, but rather a tall, dark-haired man carrying the right gift. A handsome first footer meant the year ahead would be pleasant, and if he carried bread or a shovel of coal there would be food and warmth in the future. Who will be your household's first footer?

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