

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

Website: 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: 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.



January 10, 2016
The Baptism of the Lord

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Albert Scherer,
OFM Conv.

Pastor

Fr. Mietek Wit,
OFM Conv.

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Stanley Sobiech,
OFM Conv.

Br. Frank Grimaldi,
OFM Conv.

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
508-517-2032

Mike Rodgers
Robert Maziarz
Maintenance

January 10 - The Baptism of the Lord

Jesus is the beloved Son of the Father (3). He is the light of the nations (1) and Lord of all creation (2). To him be all glory and praise (Ps)!

January 11 - Weekday

Though she calls on the Lord's name (Ps), Hannah's conjugal love is fruitless (1). Jesus' message is clear: reform your lives (2).

January 12 - Weekday

The Lord makes Hannah rich (Ps), blessing her with new life (1). Jesus possesses authority over sickness and death (2).



January 13 - St. Hilary

Samuel hears the word of the Lord (1) and is ready to do God's will (Ps). Jesus heals the sick and proclaims the good news (2).

St. Hilary of Poitiers died in 367; married and convert from paganism; leading opponent of Arianism in the West; most noted work: *De Trinitate*.

January 14 - Weekday

Religious piety will not protect Israel against its foes (1, Ps). Jesus is moved by the faith of the leper (2).

January 15 - Weekday

The elders of Israel seek to follow a human (1) rather than a divine (Ps) king. Jesus possesses authority to forgive sins (2).

January 16 - Weekday

Samuel anoints Saul as king over the tribes of Israel (1, Ps). Jesus calls Levi (Matthew) to follow him (2).

Sacrament of Confirmation

The Diocese will soon be offering confirmation classes for adults who were never confirmed as teenagers. If you are interested in being confirmed, please call the parish office.

Pray For

All homeless people during this frigid weather

MAY HE REST IN PEACE

+Albert Murray,

father of Bethany Healy,
brother of Fran Murray

Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 9

- 8:30 +Judy Pudney - Ray & Mary Riel
- 4:00 +Frank Czaporowski - Teresa Belz

Sunday, January 10

- 7:30 Souls in Purgatory - Ann
- 9:00 +Jan & Helena Lichwala - Family
- 10:30 +Kevin Hamel (10th Anniv.) - Daughter, Grace

Monday, January 11

- 8:30 Blessings & Safety for Son - Parents
- +Edward Sullivan - Chip & Joan Lamirande

Tuesday, January 12

- 8:30 +Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell Pietruskiwicz - Son

Wednesday, January 13

- 8:30 +Ann Tormey (42nd Anniv.) - Family
- Deceased members of the Tenczar Family - Wanda Witzel

Thursday, January 14

- 8:30 +Rita Riel Pafik (12th Anniv.) - Riel Family
- Souls in Purgatory

Friday, January 15

- 8:30 +Daniel McKay - Wife & Daughters

Saturday, January 16

- 8:30 +Jane Skypeck - Stawasz Family
- 4:00 +Daniel Curran (10th Anniv.) - Anne Marie

Sunday, January 17

- 7:30 Blessed fourth Birthday for Timothy James Walford - Great Grandmother, Barbara Bernard
- 9:00 Souls in Purgatory - Ann
- 10:30 +Myles Barrett (65th Anniv.) - Barrett Family

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: 1 Sm 1:1-8; Ps 116:12-19; Mk 1:14-20
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 1:9-20; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Mk 1:21-28
- Wednesday: 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20; Ps 40:2, 5, 7-10; Mk 1:29-39
- Thursday: 1 Sm 4:1-11; Ps 44:10-11, 14-15, 24-25; Mk 1:40-45
- Friday: 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a; Ps 89:16-19; Mk 2:1-12
- Saturday: 1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a; Ps 21:2-7; Mk 2:13-17
- Sunday: Is 62:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-10; 1 Cor 12:4-11; Jn 2:1-11

Divine Mercy Devotions (Polish)

This Sunday, **January 10**, we will have Divine Mercy Devotions in Polish at 3:00 pm. We hope you will join us!



Dear Parishioners,

Oplatek: Before Christmas we had Oplatek available for those parishioners who wanted to use the wafer at their Christmas dinner. Even though we ordered the same amount of Oplatek as last year, we ran out. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone. Hopefully this indicates that this beautiful custom is becoming more popular in our parish. Please know that I have made a notation to order more Oplatek for next Christmas.

Our Gift To You: On Christmas we passed out 500 copies of the book *Rediscover Jesus*. For those of you who accepted the book, I hope that you find it helpful in deepening your relationship with Jesus. Please let me know what you think about the book.

Theft: A few of you asked what happened to the colored Christmas lights that we had on the pine tree in front of the church. They were up for about a week and then one day we discovered that the extension cord connected to the lights was stolen.

Bearing Gifts: We all know that the Three Kings brought precious gifts to the baby Jesus. The Three Kings did not appear at the Friary but the mailman did. And he brought envelopes from three parishioners containing \$11,000.00 in year end gifts for the parish. I am extremely grateful for the generosity of these parishioners. Their gifts will help us to pay some of our current expenses.

Epiphany Blessing: This past week, Fr. Mietek, Fr. Stanley and I had the opportunity to bless Mater Dolorosa School. This is a tradition that goes back many, many years. While visiting each classroom we quizzed the students on the names of the Three Kings. Melchior seemed to be the hardest name for the children to remember. I hope that you had the opportunity to bless your home on the Feast of the Epiphany.

Unexpected Gift: For Christmas this year someone gave me the CD entitled *Echoes of a Polish Christmas*. It is a recording of traditional Christmas carols sung by a former Mater Dolorosa choir. There is no year on the CD but I assume that the recording was made many years ago. I know very little Polish but most of the songs on the CD I have heard over the years. The choir did an exceptional job singing the carols and I have really enjoyed listening to the CD. If anyone could tell me more about this recording, I would be interested in hearing about it.

Our Choirs: Since becoming our organist/director of music, Joe DiMarino has been working hard to establish choirs at each of our weekend Liturgies. I am grateful to those parishioners who have made a commitment to join a choir. I think that you would agree that in the short time that Joe has been directing our choirs, they have made tremendous progress. We need to have a few more individuals in the choir, especially at the 4:00 pm and 7:30 am Masses. If you like to sing, now is the time to come forward. Please think about it and give Joe a call.

Peace,
FR. ALBERT



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 is one related event that may be of interest to you:

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.

Quotable Quotes

***"Yes, I forgive them. Because Jesus said,
"Forgive each other - love each other the way I love you."***

~ A ten year old Iraqi Christian girl, Myriam, on forgiving members of ISIS, who forced her family to flee their home, in an interview with the ABC News show "20/20" that aired Dec. 18

This Week at Our Lady of the Cross

- January 10:** 3:00 pm Polish Divine Mercy
January 11: 6:00 Confirmation Classes
6:30 Parish Council Meeting
January 12: 6:30 Finance Council Meeting
January 13: 6:00 pm MD School PTO Meeting
January 14: 6:30 pm MD School Finance Meeting
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
January 16: 8:30 am Religious Education Classes
3:30 pm Choir Warm - Up
January 17: 7:15 am Choir Warm - Up
8:15 am Choir Rehearsal
10:00 am Choir Warm - Up

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collections

Christmas:	\$8,628.00
Christmas Flowers:	\$3,565.00
Mary Mother of God:	\$2,599.00
3 Year End Gifts:	\$11,000.00

Offertory Collection for December 27

First Collection:

238 Envelope Users:	\$4,650.00
Loose Money:	\$515.00
20 Envelopes Mailed:	\$1,253.00
TOTAL:	\$6,418.00
Milk Money:	\$180.00

For the Month of December:

Heat & Utilities:	\$3,129.00
Retirement for Religious:	\$2,297.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$1,493.00

Offertory Collection for January 3

First Collection:

283 Envelope Users:	\$5,553.00
Loose Money:	\$572.00
15 Envelopes Mailed:	\$1,135.00
TOTAL:	\$7,260.00
Milk Money:	\$96.00
Elms College:	\$1,294.00

Thank you for your generosity!

With Heartfelt Thanks

Our Lady of the Cross Parish wishes to acknowledge *Mrs. Dorothy Turcotte* who made a generous contribution to our church in memory of:

+Judge Ann Gibbons

Also to *Edward & Barbara Kedzior* who made generous contributions to our church in memory of:

+Thomas Wallace & +Frank Czapowowski



Our Lady of the Cross deeply appreciates their kindness!

Charitable Considerations

During the New Year, 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 Medals (gold, silver & coins)
- If you have any questions, call the parish office.
Thank you for thinking of us!!!

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.

MANIFESTING THE SPIRIT

The Christmas season closes this Sunday with the Baptism of the Lord. This feast is a sister to last week's feast of the Epiphany. Each of them celebrates an "epiphany," or a manifestation of the Spirit of God in Jesus - first in his birth, and now at his baptism.

The divine Spirit is manifested in all of the scriptures for this feast. Psalm 104 highlights the Spirit of God creating and renewing the earth, while the reading from Isaiah describes God restoring Israel. In Luke's account of the baptism of the Lord the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus. And the letter to Titus reminds us that the Holy Spirit was "richly poured out" on us also, through the "bath of rebirth" (Titus 3:5, 6).

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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@ourladyofthecross.com. Please print CLEARLY! Thank you!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Envelope Number: _____



We are looking for more choir members, especially for the Saturday 4:00 pm and Sunday 7:30 am Masses.

We have noticed over the last several weeks that the one factor that most affects the quality of music at Mass is the number of singers in the choir. We want the best possible music at all Masses, so we are trying to make it as easy as possible to join the choir.

Members of the **4:00 pm choir** do not need to attend any rehearsals during the week. There is just a brief rehearsal before Mass starting at 3:30 pm. So your time commitment is minimal.

Members of the **7:30 am Mass** choir do not need to attend any rehearsals during the week. There is a brief warm-up at 7:15 am, and after Mass there is a short rehearsal to prepare for next week's Mass. So your time commitment is minimal.

If the choir loft stairs are preventing you from participating, you can still join; those choir members that can't climb the stairs to the choir loft will sit together in the church during Mass.

We would like to add 3 more women and 3 more men at this time. It doesn't sound like a lot of people, but it would make a big difference. To join or if you have any questions, please call our music director Joe DiMarino at 508-517-2032.

Note: The Youth and Family Choir does not have enough members to continue on its own. For now, its members will sing at the 10:30 am Mass with the adult choir and attend the choir rehearsal on Thursdays from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. New members are welcome to join, and as soon as there are enough youth members the Thursday 5:15 pm dinner/rehearsals will resume



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.

Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship

Please join us today in the Parish Hall after Mass for a cup of coffee and a donut. We also have tea and juices available as well as home-made bread. 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.

Massachusetts Citizens for Life

Pro-Lifers will once again journey to Washington D.C. to join hundreds of thousands in standing up and declaring that abortion destroys life. Please join us for the March for Life on **January 22**. There are buses which bring youth to the youth rally and buses that go to other events. Limited tickets are available. The cost of the trip is \$64.00 per person, financial assistance is available. Please call the office at 583-5034 to register. Donations to help defray the cost are appreciated. Please send payment to Pioneer Valley Massachusetts Citizens for Life, P.O. Box 96.



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Merry Christmas! Share that cheerful greeting with some folks today. They may wonder if you have had any Elvis sightings lately, attended Star Trek conventions, or were Cleopatra in a previous lifetime. Despite the skeptics, today is solidly within the Christmas season. In fact, in some strands of the Christian tradition it represents the clearest manifestation of the mystery of the Incarnation. On Christmas Day, for example, the Gospel reading is the Prologue of John's Gospel, which reveals the glory of Christ shining through our humanity precisely in his baptism.

At any rate, this is an ancient feast, celebrated first in Egypt sixteen centuries ago. More than most other ancient people, the Egyptians understood the life-giving properties of water. On this day, they drew water from the Nile, so central in the history of their people, and reserved it in honor. Many other places copied the custom, so that St. John Chrysostom wrote of people in Antioch gathering at midnight to collect flowing water into vessels they brought from home since "today there is a blessing on the water." At home for dinner tonight, decorate the table with beautiful bowls of water and white candles, toast one another with goblets of sparkling water, and light a Christmas candle in the window one last time.

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