

# 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF PRE LENT - FEB. 11, 2024

SINCE 1926 **HOLY CROSS PARISH** PNCC 97 Years of Service

220 Browertown Road Woodland Park, New Jersey 07424

Cell 201-247-4832 / Phone: 973-256-4888

Web Site: [www.holycrosssite.org](http://www.holycrosssite.org) E-mail [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com)

**The Reverend Father Joseph R. Cyman, Pastor**

**The Deacon William Gaydos**

**SUNDAY MASSES 9 am and 11 am**

"Can the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?" Mark 2:20

## INTRODUCTION

My Brothers and Sisters, our Scripture today speak about fasting and feasting, about old and about new. The relationship between groom and bride is used by prophets and by Jesus to illustrate the relationship between God and His people. As we gather to celebrate these sacred and holy mysteries, let us prepare ourselves to welcome the divine bridegroom, our Lord and Savior into our marriages, our families and our personal lives.

### Scripture readings:

**Hosea 2:16,17, 21-22** I will espouse you to me forever.

**Ps 103.** The Lord is kind and merciful.

**2 Cor 3, 106** You are a letter of Christ ministered to us.

**Mark 2:18-22** As long as the bridegroom is with them, they cannot fast.

## WE THANK LECTORS SERVING TODAY

**9:00 am – Martin Maher      11:00 am – Chirag Taylor**

**SHOPPING CERTIFICATES - RECENTLY WE DEPOSITED \$2,000 TO BUILDING FUND FROM SHOPPING CERTIFICATES SALE.** We thank those who are involved in purchasing the certificates and those who make this project possible: **Richard and Ed Obsuth.**

Please continue to support our Building Fund by purchasing weekly shopping certificates after 9 am Mass. You can buy them in the parish hall.



**We pray for the end of war in the world.**

**I pray for all parishioners each day. Please continue to pray for me and my family. Thank you**

## Please pray for the Sick of our parish.

Out of respect for the privacy of the person who is ill we can only publish the names of the sick with their consent. We review our list monthly. The



following members of our parish community are in need of our prayers: **Edward Lazor, Monika Lukowiak, Barbara Koscinski, Fay Goglia; Michael Piascik, Floyd Vivino,**

**George, Pat, Maria, Tadeusz Sobstyl, Steven O., Roy Zebrowski, Declan, Erik, Enrico, Josephine B. Carmen.** If you would like to have your name on the list or your loved ones with their permission, please contact the parish office. Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father..

**THE PRAYERS REQUEST** - The container "Prayer Request" is located at the side altar by the baptismal fount. Fr. Joseph says the Holy Mass on Thursdays for the sick and shut-ins. If you have any sick members in your family and/or homebound, please write their names and place them in the container. Fr. Joseph will include these intentions at the Holy Mass on Thursday evening Mass.

**ANNIVERSARIES OF MARRIAGE:** Dear Parishioners, we wish to extend our congratulations and best wishes on your anniversaries of marriage. Those who were married in another church, and we don't have your records, please write your name and the date of your marriage on the form below and mail it to us or place it in the collection basket or send it by mail. Name (husband) \_\_\_\_\_



Name (wife maiden name) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Marriage \_\_\_\_\_

**John Lazor / Alexandra Jaxon – 12/16 – 51<sup>st</sup> Ann.**

**Manuel & Melissa Rodriguez – 12/20 – 11<sup>th</sup> Ann.**

**Kevin & Karyn Ortega – 2/3 – 1<sup>st</sup> Ann.**

**Chirag & Aarti Taylor – 2/19 – 9<sup>th</sup> Ann.**

**Fr. Joseph and Renata Cyman – 2/21 – 26<sup>th</sup> Ann.**

**Holy Cross Church Face Book – link [www.holycrosswoodlandpark.com](http://www.holycrosswoodlandpark.com)**

Visiting our website Blog [holycrosssite.org](http://holycrosssite.org) you can go directly to our church face book. **665** people are following our church Face book! We thank Lynn Imperiale for her dedication in updating our Facebook.

**BUSINESS ADVERTISING Year 2023**

We thank businesses that gave donations for bulletin ads and thus helping us to defray the cost of bulletin printing. The donation for one year is \$125.00. If you wish to submit your ad, please contact the parish office at 201-247-4832 or send e-mail [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com), thank you. **Parishioners and friends, please support the following businesses that give financial contributions to our church.**

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**3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF PRE-LENT- FEB. 11, 2024**



**9:00 AM** Holy Mass for +Elaine Sarubbi; *Off. by Cyman Family*  
10:00 am - Hughie Coffee and Cake Fellowship



10:00 am – First Holy Communion Class  
11:00 am – Sunday School class in the parish hall



**11:00 AM** – Holy Mass for August & Melissa Centrella; Emanuele and Theresa Triggiano; *Off. by Claire Centrella*  
**AFTER MASS – ST VALENTINE’S LUNCHEON**

**St. Valentine’s Day Luncheon**

**Monday – Feb. 12, 2024 – St. Melitus Bp.**

8:30 am – Holy Mass for all parishioners

**Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024 – St. Martinian, Ab.**

8:30 am – Holy Mass for the growth of our parish

**Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024 – ASH WEDNESDAY**

12 PM – Holy Mass with blessing and distribution of Ashes

7:30 pm - Holy Mass with blessing and distribution of Ashes

+Lilibeth Noriega; Req. by Migdaris

**Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024 – St. Faustinus & Jovita, M.**

8:30 am - Holy Mass for the sick and homebound

7:30 pm – Parish Comm. Meeting

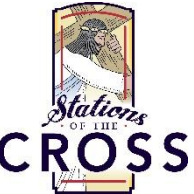
**Friday, Feb. 16, 2024 – 71<sup>st</sup> Ann. of Death of Prime Bp. Francis Hodur**

8:30 am – Holy Mass for Benefactors of our parish

7:00 pm – Stations of the Cross – plan to addend

**Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024 – For Peace in the world**

9:00 am – Holy Mass for peace in the world



**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT - FEB. 18, 2024**



**9:00 AM** Holy Mass for All Parishioners

**10:00 am – ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
WITH REFRESHMENT - PLAN TO ATTEND**



10:00 am – First Holy Communion Class in Sunday School Bld.

11:00 am – Sunday School class in the parish hall

**11:00 AM** – Holy Mass for +Thomas Kaynak; *Of. By the Family*





**FOOD DRIVE to benefit the Father English Food Pantry. You can bring your donations any Sunday to our parish hall and place them by the room “Food Bank” Won’t you help the needy in the name of Christ the Savior? “Whatever you do to the least of my**

**brothers, you have done it to me.” (Mat. 25:40)**

**NEW PARISHIONERS** – If you are new to our parish, please submit your name and phone number to Father Joseph. Father will contact you regarding parish membership and answer the questions you may have regarding our church.

**WELCOME!**

**2023 Contribution Statements** - Any parishioner who wishes to receive information regarding their donations to the church for the year 2023 for their income tax purposes, please contact Financial Secretary, Richard Daum 973-694-9457 email [DICKDAUM@gmail.com](mailto:DICKDAUM@gmail.com). We thank Richard for his time and dedication in his service as Financial Secretary/Treasurer of Holy Cross Church.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Enrollment for 2024 is still open.**

**Communion classes are held Sunday at 10 am.** *The Holy Eucharist is Jesus Christ who is really present under the forms of bread and wine. In the Eucharist, Jesus Christ gives us Himself as a food for our souls. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of our Lord during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass when the priest says words of consecration which Jesus used during the Last Supper: This is My Body... This is My Blood. (Catechism)*

## **Upcoming Events:**

**February 18, 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting from 10 – 11 am**

**March 10, 2024 – St. Patrick’s Luncheon after 11 am**

**March 17, 2024 – Agape N/Y N/J Seniorate – SS Peter & Paul, 126**

**River Dr. Passaic, 3 PM March 26, 2024 – Clergy Conference, Chrism Mass, Scranton, PA**

**March 31, 2024 – Easter – Solemnity of the Resurrection of the Lord**

**April 7, 2024 – Easter Egg Hunt & Party for School of Christian Living (SOCL)**

**May 5, 2024 – Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**May 12, 2024 – Mother’s Day Breakfast at 10 am**

**June 2, 2024 – Corpus Christi celebration at Holy Cross at 3 PM**

**Week of July 4th 2024 - YOUTH CAMP – Kurs , Waymart, PA**

**September 22, 2024 – Adoration Society Convention at Church of Transfiguration, Wallington, NJ at 3 pm**

**Tricky Tray – Saturday, October 19, 2024**

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



**HALL RENTAL HOLY CROSS CHURCH.** The hall rental fee for the use of the facilities is \$125.00 for each hour of rental time (for non-parishioners). For members of the parish (paid membership). The rental hall fee for the use of facilities is \$65 for each hour. Call 201-247-4832



**ALTAR SERVERS** This is an important ministry for our parish and your support and involvement is needed. Please contact Deacon - William Gaydos 973-239-4725 or parish office 201-247-4832 if your son /daughter are interested in becoming altar servers. We thank



**Deacon Bill for lessons preparing new altar servers.**

### **THANK YOU**



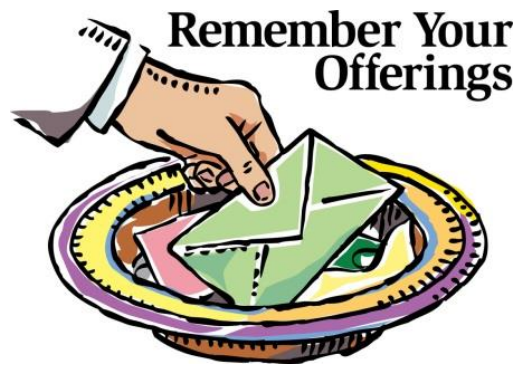
- Parishioners who support parish financially and those who send donations by mail or electronically using Venmo or PayPal. Each Friday, the Holy Mass is celebrated for all benefactors living and deceased.
- Adoration Society for their ministry and help in activities of our parish.
- Sunday School teachers, Mr. Paul Murphy, Ms. Natalie Lazar for their service
- Richard Daum for his work as a treasurer
- Fran Cuccinello for helping in the office
- Renata C. for cleaning altar linens
- We thank those who prepare Coffee Hour on Sundays
- Altar servers who serve during our Masses / Lectors who read the Holy Scripture / Ushers who collect donations and Greeters who welcome people and distribute bulletins.
- We thank anyone for sharing time, talent and treasure for the good of Holy Cross Church. God bless you all!

### **Before Holy Mass**

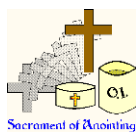
Please observe some quiet time before Mass to prepare yourself for worship: meeting God in His Word, Confession, and Holy Communion



**LET US IMITATE THE WAYS OF GOD BY BEING MORE GENEROUS AND LOVING IN OUR SERVICE TO HIS MYSTICAL BODY, “THE CHURCH.”**



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**HOSPITAL VISIT.** “Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord...” (James 5:14). If you or a member of your family are ill and would like to receive the Holy Communion at home or at the hospital, please notify the rectory

**Prayer for the Sick**

O Heavenly Father, we lift up all those who are facing illness today. We ask that You bring healing, comfort and peace to their bodies. Calm their fears and let them experience the healing power of Your love. In Jesus’ name. Amen



Dear Friends, the Holy Cross Church is now able to accept donations through Venmo. By using Venmo, parishioners, donors, and benefactors can utilize electronic giving that comes with no extra cost to the donor or to Holy Cross. For anyone looking to donate electronically, Holy Cross’ Venmo account is @holycrosspncc Electronic donations make it easy to donate whether they are near or far – again, with no added cost associated with the transaction. For your convenience here is the link you can scan to access or find Holy Cross’ Venmo account.



**ALMS BOX** – Our parish traditionally uses the Alms Box in the vestibule of the church for the benefit of the poor. Please continue to support this great cause to help the less fortunate of our society. *“When you give alms, your left hand must not know what your right is doing – your almsgiving must be secret, and your father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.” (Matthew 6:3-4)*



**MASSES OF HEALING** – The Masses for the Sick and Home Bound are celebrated **on the last Thursday of the month.**



**WE HOPE FOR MORE PARTICIPANTS TO PRESENT PRAYERS FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR OTHERS. Dates of Healing Masses: December 28, 2023 Jan. 25, 2024 at 7 PM.** The Lord listens to our prayers and has the power of healing of body, mind and spirit. **WE HOPE FOR MORE PARTICIPANTS**

**Sanctuary Candle - Adoration Society** is sponsoring sanctuary candles that are lit for a week in memory/honor of your special intentions for \$10. **PLEASE SIGN up on the list in the parish hall, use special envelopes and make your check out to Adoration Society. Thank you for your donations.**

- Week of Jan. 21, 24 – in memory of Hughie Vickerilla by Beverly Vickerilla**
- Week of Jan. 28, 2024 – In memory of Elaine Klecha by Joan Kaynak**
- Week of February 4, 2024 – In memory of William Douma by Charlyene McCart**
- Week of Feb. 11, 2024 - In memory of Elaine Klecha by Joan Kaynak**
- Week of Feb. 18, 2024 – In memory of Thomas Kaynak by the Family**
- Week of February 25, 2024 – In memory of Gennaro Celano**

For more information, please call parish office at 201-247-4832 or Penni Lazor, Adoration Society President, at 973-768-7917 Thank you.





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*Spiritual reflection for Ash Wednesday: Beginning on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 14, 2024) we are called to repent, to change our minds about the way we live our lives in the sight of God. In the reading from the Book of the Prophet Joel we will hear that he summoned everyone, young and elderly to an assembly of prayer indicating that they were repenting.*

**Ash Wednesday summons everyone to enter into a forty-day fast and prayer. All are invited to give alms. We will all gather on Ash Wednesday because we know that we need to “to return to the Lord.” Joel tells us that we can do that only by returning with our whole hearts, that is, with a motivation that is deep inside us. The ashes on our foreheads will indicate that we are entering in the Lenten period of change that will leave us never to be the same again. During the season of Lent all parishioners are welcome to attend on Fridays Stations of the Cross at 7:00 PM. This will give us the opportunity to reflect upon the redemptive sufferings of our Lord and Savior.**

**THE SEASON OF LENT**

With humble hearts we ask God to prepare us for the journey of spiritual renewal. During the Lenten time all of us should remember personal prayers, read the Holy Scripture and attend the liturgy of Sunday Mass. Fasting – we are called to abstain from meat on Fridays and Wednesdays (PNCC) by those who are 14 years old and older. On Good Friday additionally we should fast which means intake of one full meal by those who are 18 to 60 years of age. Also, we are invited to attend Lenten Devotions to reflect on the redemptive sufferings and death of our Lord on Fridays at 7:00 P.M.

**ALMS BOX** – Our parish traditionally

*Our Mission* - The parish of Holy Cross is a Catholic community with doors open to all and bringing them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and thus giving comfort and purpose to a struggling world. “You are to go into the entire world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere! (see Mark 16:15).” We believe that we are a Church where the timeless message of Christ is communicated in a contemporary style. “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost (Luke 19:10).” In the past 98 years of service we feel that we became a strong and faithful community with unselfish service to God and all our brothers and sisters, giving unending praise and thanksgiving for the blessings and gifts bestowed upon us.



**HELP FOR PARENTS & SMALL CHILDREN** If small children need more attention during the Mass, parents can now listen to the Liturgy of the Mass in the parish hall while the children can play or do the drawings. The TV set is connected to a camera in the church sanctuary. You can see mass in the parish hall.

**HOLY CROSS PARISH DAILY PRAYER CHAIN**

Dear friends, please join our parish in DAILY PRAYER CHAIN.

**We pray for peaceful resolutions and reconciliation in different parts of the world especially in Ukraine and Israel, and other countries in the world. IN OUR PRAYERS WE ASK FOR THE RESPECT OF THE SANCTITY OF EACH LIFE AND DIGNITY OF EVERY INDIVIDUAL SINCE THE MOMENT OF CONCEPTION TO LAST MOMENT OF LIFE REGARDLESS OF RACE, NATIONALITY, POLITICAL PARTY, GENDER, ETHNICITY, STATUS OR CREED. MAY WE LIVE HARMONIOUSLY WITH EACH OTHER, RESPECTING DIFFERENCES, CHERISHING DIVERSITY, WITHOUT FEAR OF THE OTHER, HONORING THE IMAGE OF GOD IN EVERY HUMAN PERSON.**



We pray for the recovery of the sick and for the medical staff for wisdom and guidance in their service. We remember persecuted Christians around the world and for freedom of worship. We pray for those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol, for their recovery and protection from illness. We pray for the victims of any sexual abuse and harassment. Our Polish National Catholic Church has a zero tolerance in that respect. Please pray for each other asking for God’s blessing especially for our parishioners who are sick, home-bound and are in need of any kind of healing and support. We pray for the growth of our parish and for an increase of our dedication in the service for the Church established by our Lord, Jesus Christ. May the Holy Cross Church continue to grow in faith and in number as a place of prayer where people can worship God and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Amen.

**EPIPHANY PASTORAL VISITATIONS** Fr Joseph Is available to bless homes especially during Christmas time. Please let Fr. Joseph know that you wish to have your home/apartment blessed by calling 201-247-4832 or email [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com).

**2024 ADULT ENVELOPES** are still available in the parish hall. If you are missing envelopes, please submit your name and address in the parish hall. Thank you for your

**financial support toward the Holy Cross Church. We believe that God blesses us and our families when we support His Church He established on earth to spread His message of salvation.**





## **HOLY CROSS CHURCH**

220 Browertown Rd

Woodland Park, N.J. 07424

[holycrosssite.org](http://holycrosssite.org) - - - [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com)

### **“St. Patrick’s Luncheon”**

**Sunday – March 10, 2024 12 P.M. (after 11:00 AM Mass)**



WITH IRISH MUSIC

#### **TENTATIVE MENU**

**Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes**

**Baked Chicken, Variety of Vegetables, Assorted Breads**

**Irish Soda Bread, Coffee / Tea**

**Irish Coffee, Desserts**

**Adults: \$17      Children and youth attending Sunday School – Free**

**Other Children ages 6 -14 - \$8**

**Basket of Irish Cheer / Door Prize**

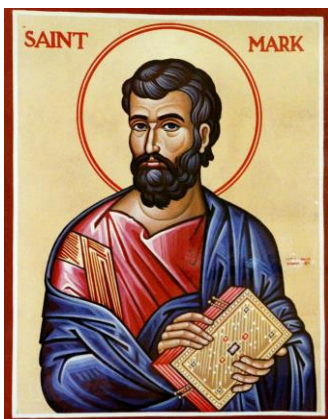
**R.S.V.P by 3/3/2024 / ph.: (201) 247-4832 or**

**Email: [holycrosspncc1@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosspncc1@gmail.com)**

**Buy tickets in the parish hall or send donation by mail**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**





REFLECTION

The gospel reading above shows us the beginning of the tension between Jesus and His critics. The disciples of John and the Pharisees were quick to see and feel the difference between their usual life and the “new life” that Jesus brings. So, they complained. Jesus responded by saying that the old had gone and the new had arrived. His use of a wedding as a metaphor means that His presence is like a party or a fun-filled celebration. Obviously, it is not a time for fasting but rather for rejoicing.

Jesus came not to preserve the status quo but to establish the Kingdom of God where there is peace and joy, love and justice, hope and faith. That is why His new radical way of life was at odds with the establishment, particularly the religious authorities. Their opposition to Jesus would later culminate in the crucifixion.

We can easily understand the behavior of the critics of Jesus. Many people would rather cling to their cherished old way of life rather than embrace change. Especially if you are in a privileged situation like the Pharisees of old and elite families in our time, there is no incentive for change. Yet change is the message of Jesus. He has arrived to inaugurate the foundation of a new world that would alter the way we relate to each other and to God.

Indeed, the moment one accepts Jesus as his personal Lord and savior, he becomes a new person (2 Corinthians 5:17). The old self must be transformed into His likeness. It is no longer business as usual. Old habits must die to give way to new habits. It is not easy of course. As in all kinds of change, there is pain involved just like the tearing of old wineskins. But the fact remains, life in Christ is full of joy, hope and love.

A Prayer by St. Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)



Lord, grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by You,  
always follow Your plans, and perfectly accomplish Your Holy Will.  
Grant that in all things, great and small, today and all the days of my life,  
I may do whatever You require of me. Help me respond  
to the slightest prompting of Your Grace,  
so that I may be Your trustworthy instrument for Your honor.  
May Your Will be done in time and in eternity by me,  
in me, and through me. Amen



Gospel of St. Mark 2:18-22

Now John’s disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, “How is it that John’s disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?”

Jesus answered, “How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast.

“No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”