

Welcome to Holy Cross Church

**14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
with Benediction to the Blessed Sacrament
and Independence Day Observance**

Sunday, July 5, 2009

11:00 a.m.

**Holy Cross Church
3690 Armstrong Road, P.O. Box 318
Syracuse, NY 13209-0318**

Intention: Wanda and Joseph Karpinski

Requested by Joseph M. Karpinski and Terry Pontello

Intention: All those in need of healing in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel 2: 2-5

Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me: Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their fathers have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you. But you shall say to them: Thus says the Lord God! And whether they heed or resist – for they are a rebellious house – they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 123: 1-2, 2, 3-4

R: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

To you I lift up my eyes who are enthroned in heaven – as the eyes of servants are on the hands of their masters.

R: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

As the eyes of a maid are on the hands of her mistress, so are the eyes on the Lord, our God, till he have pity on us.

R: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

Have pity on us, O Lord, have pity on us, for we are more than sated with contempt; our souls are more than sated with the mockery of the arrogant, with the contempt of the proud.

R: Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

Reading II

From the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians

II Corinthians 12:

7-10

I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

As to the extraordinary revelations, in order that I might not become conceited I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and keep me from getting too proud. Three times I begged the Lord that this might leave me. He said to me, "My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection." And so I willingly boast of my weaknesses instead, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I am content with weakness, with mistreatment, with distress, with persecutions and difficulties for the sake of Christ; for when I am powerless, it is then that I am strong.

Gospel

A reading of the holy gospel according to St. Mark

Mark 6: 1-6

A prophet despised in his own country.

Jesus went to his own part of the country followed by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue in a way that kept his large audience amazed. They said: "Where did he get all this? What kind of wisdom is he endowed with? How is it such miraculous deeds are accomplished by his hands? Isn't this the carpenter, the son of Mary, a brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters our neighbors here?" They found him too much for them. Jesus' response to all this was: "No prophet is without honor, except in his native place, among his own kindred, and in his own house." He could work no miracle there, apart from curing a few who were sick by laying hands on them, so much did their lack of faith distress him. He made the rounds of the neighboring villages instead and spent his time teaching.

Thoughts from the Pulpit: Rejecting the Messenger

[Mark 6: 1-6]

The Gospel shows the sad occasion when Jesus returned to his native Nazareth and the people rejected Him. But the people of Nazareth were the real losers, because He was unable to do anything for them.

The greatest loss for this world is rejecting the Messiah who has been sent for the salvation of people. The rejection of the Messiah and his Gospel has been escalated on all fronts in our times. The Messiah Jesus Christ and his Gospel walks through our times visually in his Church and offers the unmeasured blessings of life to those who are fit for the acceptance.

It is a tragic contradiction to claim, "I love Jesus but I don't accept the Church." It is impossible to separate Jesus Christ from His Church. Jesus proclaims the Gospel, heals, inspires, acts miracles, casts out evils, forgives sins, regenerates, baptizes, confirms, and leads to salvation – all of these He does in His Church and through His Church. To love Jesus and reject His Church is like to loving the beautiful gift and rejecting its donor who offers that gift or vice versa.

And for the disasters of this world, many people today reject the Messenger and his Gospel. But the Church will proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ despite all the forces of rejection that conspire against it.

The Church of Jesus Christ will always minister to the sick and dying, will always defend the poor crying out for help, will always defend unborn children begging for protection, will always condemn sins and call sinners for reconciliation with God. The Church will always defend the family and sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman. The Church will never change the Gospel for the convenience of people or to be accepted by this world's political systems.

"The Lord is with you when you are with Him, and if you seek Him, He will be present to you; but if you abandon Him, He will abandon you" (II Chronicles 15: 2)

"He came to what was His own, but His own people did not accept Him. But to those who accept Him, He gave power to become children of God!" (John 1: 11-12).

Communion

Welcome to participation in the Holy Eucharist. By receiving Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we fully participate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should be baptized, should not be conscious of grave sin, and normally should fast for one to two hours. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive Communion without prior Sacramental Confession.

We always welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Communion. We pray that our common Baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions separating us.

