

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church
20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday, August 15, 2010
11:00 am**

**Holy Cross Church
3690 Armstrong Road, PO Box 318
Syracuse, NY 13209-0318**

WEBSITE: <http://www.holycrossncc.org>

EMAIL: holycrossncc@espeedusa.com

Intention: +Russell and Dorothy Haberer
Requested by Pat and Steve Zalewski

Healing Intentions: Michelle Mallory Lu Luch
Martha Shuman Diane Spina
Lois Bogacki

and all those in need of healing in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

Jeremiah 38: 4-6, 8-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

You bore me to be a man of strife for the whole world.

The princes said to the king: "Jeremiah ought to be put to death; he demoralizes the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them; he is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin." King Zedekiah answered: "He is in your power"; for the king could do nothing with them. And so they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Prince Malchiah, which was in the quarters of the guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud. Ebed-melech went to the Gate of Benjamin from the palace and said to the king: "My lord king, these men have been at fault in all they have done to the prophet Jeremiah, casting him into the cistern. He will die of famine on the spot, for there is no more food in the city." Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him, and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 40: 2, 3, 4, 18

R: Lord, come to my aid!

I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me.

R: Lord, come to my aid!

The Lord heard my cry. He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp; he set my feet upon a crag; he made firm my steps.

R: Lord, come to my aid!

And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look on in awe and trust in the Lord.

R: Lord, come to my aid!

Though I am afflicted and poor, yet the Lord thinks of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, hold not back!

R: Lord, come to my aid!

Reading II

Hebrews 12: 1-4

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Hebrews

Let us bear patiently the struggle placed upon us.

Since we for our part are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses; let us lay aside every encumbrance of sin which clings to us and persevere in running the race which lies ahead; let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who inspires and perfects our faith. For the sake of the joy which lay before him he endured the cross, heedless of its shame. He has taken his seat at the right of the throne of God. Remember how he endured the opposition of sinners; hence do not grow despondent or abandon the struggle.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Alleluia Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life,
You have the words of everlasting life.**

Gospel

Luke 12: 49-53

A reading of the holy gospel according to Luke

I have come not to give peace, but discord.

Jesus said to his disciples: *"I have come to light a fire on the earth. How I wish the blaze were ignited! I have a baptism to receive. What anguish I feel till it is over! Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth? I assure you, the contrary is true; I have come for division. From now on, a household of five will be divided three against two and two against three; father will be split against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law, daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Thoughts from the Pulpit

Casting Fire on the Earth

Jesus Christ says in the Gospel today: "I came to cast fire on the earth...I came, not to bring peace, but rather division." It is a powerful metaphor. It is a symbol of judgment and purification that Jesus uses here to describe His mission on earth.

Fire and sword (division)! – strange words to hear coming from Jesus! But Jesus forbade using fire and division. When James and John wanted Jesus to call down fire and brimstone on a Samaritan village for not accepting Him, He told them they didn't know what they were talking about. And when Peter drew his sword in the garden, Jesus told him to put it away. Jesus was gentle, but this doesn't mean that he was weak. When Jesus drove the traders out of the Temple, He showed His assertive power.

Jesus was delivering His Gospel with power and authority. He still delivers it. He will be delivering it to the end of times. His Gospel, like a fire, refines what is impure. His Gospel demands us to make crucial choices. He asks, for our sake, to choose for Him. Whoever is not choosing Him is choosing against Him. There is no room in-between.

Jesus' Gospel is not meant to flatter or to bring a "nice message" to people. It is the Gospel of Truth, of Love, and of Hope. He sealed that Gospel with His Death and Resurrection! His Gospel is very shocking and disturbing! It offers a very serious matter of life or death!

Nowadays many ministers, in order to attract their audience, betray the Gospel rather than preach it, when they reduce it to a nice and convenient selectiveness of the Bible, when they introduce tendencies to demonstrate the Gospel with convenient passages, reducing it to pretty words and 'feel-good experiences', then the fire has gone out, the leaven has lost its power, the salt has lost its taste, the light has grown dim and dark. The Gospel of Jesus is not there!

The Gospel of Jesus purifies, like a fire. The Gospel of Jesus is the leaven of society and the world!

A fire needs not only to be kindled but also tended. Followers of Jesus! Are you the tenders of the fire? What Gospel do you teach and practice in your life? - The Gospel of Jesus? Or the 'Gospel of Convenience'?

God Bless you!

Announcements for August 15, 2010

Today following Holy Mass, a brief meeting will be held for all those who have signed up to work either the field or the prep kitchen for **this week's Field Days**. Just a quick run-through of procedures and we should be all set. **If you have not yet done so**, please take time **this morning** to sign up to work at the field or at the prep kitchen as often as you are able. The field days will be held on **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 19-20-21**. Thank you in advance for your support of this huge effort on behalf of our mortgage fund.

We extend our best wishes to our August birthdays: Tony Prince (August 4), Leah Ann Cammisso (August 8), Dave Greenfield (August 14), Bob Kolonko (August 21), Greg Fragola (August 25), and JJ Kolonko (August 28). STO LAT!!

The next parish committee meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, August 29**, following Holy Mass. Please mark your calendars.

The White Eagle Medical Bridge Golf Tourney is scheduled for **Saturday, September 18**. Information and registration forms are available on the table in the church foyer.

A community garage sale has been scheduled for **Fri-Sat, September 24-25**. Bobbi will be coordinating this event. As you clean out this summer, please gather **clean, saleable** items and bring them to the church, **marked with the sale prices**. Donations will be stored in the old school room next to the office. Thank you in advance for your support.

The Bi-annual Convention of the YMS of R is scheduled for **Sat-Sun, October 23-24** at Holy Mother of Sorrows Parish in Dupont, PA. Registration is \$35 per delegate and there is no limit to the number of delegates that can attend from a parish. Information on the convention is available on the table in the foyer. The deadline for registration is **Friday, October 1**.

