

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday, September 20, 2009
11:00 am**

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

Intention: +Helen and Louis Adamski	Requested by the Beebe family
Intention: for healing of Mary Ann Cartner	Lu Luch
Rose Kolonko	Michelle Mallory
Judy Pazdzierski	Diane Spina
Martha Shuman	Leah Morrell
and	
all others in need of healing in our parish community	

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

Wisdom 2: 12, 17-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Let us condemn him to a most shameful death.

[The wicked say:] Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us; he sets himself against our doings, reproaches us for transgressions of the law and charges us with violations of our training. Let us see whether his words be true; let us find out what will happen to him. For if the just one be the son of God, he will defend him and deliver him from the hand of his foes. With revilement and torture let us put him to the test that we may have proof of his gentleness and try his patience. Let us condemn him to a shameful death; for according to his own words, God will take care of him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 54: 3-4, 5, 6-8

R: The Lord upholds my life.

O God, by your name save me, and by your might defend my cause. O God, hear my prayer; hearken to the words of my mouth.

R: The Lord upholds my life.

For haughty men have risen up against me, and fierce men seek my life; they set not God before their eyes.

R: The Lord upholds my life.

Behold, God is my helper; the Lord sustains my life. Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.

R: The Lord upholds my life.

Reading II

James 3: 16 to 4: 3

A reading from the letter of James

Justice is the harvest of peacemakers from seeds sown in a spirit of peace.

Where there are jealousy and strife, there also are inconstancy and all kinds of vile behavior. Wisdom from above, by contrast, is first of all innocent. It is also peaceable, lenient, docile, rich in sympathy and the kindly deeds that are its fruit, impartial and sincere. The harvest of justice is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.

Where do the conflicts and disputes among you originate? Is it not your inner cravings that make war within your members? What you desire you do not obtain, and so you resort to murder. You envy and you cannot acquire, so you quarrel and fight. You do not obtain because you do not ask. You ask and you do not receive because you ask wrongly, with a view to squandering what you receive on your pleasures.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel

Mark 9: 30-37

A reading of the holy gospel according to St. Mark

The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men...
if anyone wishes to be first, he must make himself the servant of all.

Jesus and his disciples came down the mountain and began to go through Galilee, but he did not want anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples in this vein: *"The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men who will put him to death; three days after his death he will rise."* Though they failed to understand his words, they were afraid to question him.

They returned to Capernaum and Jesus, once inside the house, began to ask them, *"What were you discussing on the way home?"* At this they fell silent, for on the way they had been arguing about who was the most important. So he sat down and called the Twelve around him and said, *"If anyone wishes to rank first, he must remain the last one of all and the servant of all."* Then, he took a little child, stood him in their midst, and putting his arms around him, said to them, *"Whoever welcomes a child such as this for my sake welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me welcomes, not me, but him who sent me."*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Thoughts from the Pulpit: **True and False Ambition**

[Mark 9: 30-37]

In today's Gospel Jesus Christ calls his followers to live in peace and harmony with one another.

One of the most damaging a thing to unity and harmony is false ambition. In the Gospel today we see that apostles fighting over who would be first in Jesus' kingdom. They are driven by selfishness and false ambition

There's nothing wrong with being ambitious. Indeed, it is good to have goals, to want to be good at what we do and to succeed in it. But often false ambition can take over and carry into our forgetting everything that is Godly, only pursuing success in business or in a career, sacrificing family life, Church life, justice, kindness, even life itself.

In this context Jesus warns the world of false ambition: "What good will it do us if we gain the whole world but lose ourselves?"

False ambition is very damaging. It springs from jealousy and selfishness and leads to all kinds of ugly behavior including violence, evil, greed and corruption.

There is a good form of ambition that Jesus points out in today's Gospel. Jesus did not tell the apostles that they should not seek greatness in his kingdom. He just showed them where true greatness was to be found: not in lording over and mastering others, but in being the servants of others, especially the weakest members of the community. The 'child' that Jesus pointed to them becomes a metaphor for the weak and vulnerable members of the community.

"Whoever welcomes one such child, welcomes me." 'Welcome' means loving service. Jesus Christ will repeat the same statement in the last judgement scene: "As long as you did it to one of these, the least of my brothers, you did it to me." Amen!

The 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.

Announcements for September 20, 2009

Today begins our coffee-hour fellowship. Please join us in the parish hall after Holy Mass.

After coffee hour today, the parish committee will meet. Agenda items include setting the schedule of events for the remainder of 2009, the question of sealing the driveway before winter, and more. Please mark your calendars.

Our fall picnic last Sunday was a tremendous success. We saw many new faces come through our doors, and the efforts of our church family were amazing on every front. Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped to make the day so wonderful. The chalk message on the driveway, written by one of our young guests, said it all: "Polish food is very good."

Only 10 days remain for the PNU Special Offer of 10 Paid Life Insurance. The insert in your bulletin describes the plan. See Joe today if you are interested in this very reasonable life insurance plan.

Weight Watchers is coming to Holy Cross starting on Thursday, October 8. Weigh-in begins at 5:30, with the meeting at 6:00. Spread the word of this opportunity to your neighbors, family and friends.

If you have names of individuals in need of our prayers and support as they heal, please let Pat know by Thursday of each calendar week. Thank you.

Weekly Calendar

Monday, September 21 FEAST – MATTHEW, APOSTLE/EVANGELIST

Tuesday, September 22 6:00 Choir practice

Sunday, September 27 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time
Intention: +

11:00 am Holy Mass
12:00 pm Coffee Hour

Monthly Financial Summary

Week of	Weekly Income	Weekly Income Needed	Balance
September 6	\$463	\$642	-\$179
September 13	\$920	\$642	\$278
TOTAL	\$1383	\$1284	\$99