

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church
2nd Sunday of Advent
with Benediction to the Blessed Sacrament**

**Sunday, December 6, 2009
11:00 am**

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

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Healing Intentions: Rose Kolonko
 Lu Luch Michelle Mallory
 Katherine Sztechmiller Diane Spina
 Martha Shuman Lois Bogacki
and all others in need of healing in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

Baruch 5: 1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Baruch

Jerusalem – God will show your splendor.

Jerusalem, take off your robe of mourning and misery; put on the splendor from God forever: wrapped in the cloak of justice from God, bear on your head the mitre that displays the glory of the eternal name. For God will show all the earth your splendor: you will be named by God forever the peace of justice, the glory of God's worship.

Up, Jerusalem! Stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God. Led away on foot by their enemies they left you: but God will bring them back to you borne aloft in glory as on royal thrones. For God has commanded that every lofty mountain be made low, and that the age-old depths and gorges be filled to level ground, that Israel may advance secure in the glory of God. The forests and every fragrant kind of tree have overshadowed Israel at God's command; for God is leading Israel in joy by the light of his glory, with his mercy and justice for company.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 126: 1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

R: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing.

R: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed.

R: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the torrents in the southern desert. Those that sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.

R: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.

R: The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.

Reading II

Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Philippians

Show yourselves sinless and without blame in the day of Christ.

In every prayer I utter, I rejoice as I plead on your behalf, at the way you have all continually helped promote the gospel from the very first day.

I am sure of this much: that he who has begun the good work in you will carry it through to completion, right up to the day of Christ Jesus. God himself can testify how much I long for each of you with the affection of Christ Jesus! My prayer is that your love may more and more abound, both in understanding and wealth of experience, so that with a clear conscience and blameless conduct you may learn to value the things that really matter, up to the very day of Christ. It is my wish that you may be found rich in the harvest of justice which Jesus Christ has ripened in you, to the glory and praise of God.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel

Luke 3: 1-6

A reading of the holy gospel according to St. Luke

All mankind shall see the salvation of God.

In the fifteenth year of the rule of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was procurator of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, Philip his brother tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God was spoken to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went about the entire region of the Jordan proclaiming a baptism of repentance which led to the forgiveness of sins, as is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, clear him a straight path. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be leveled. The windings shall be made straight and the rough ways smooth, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.'"

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Thoughts from the Pulpit

[Luke 3: 1-6]

Preparing a Way for the Lord

A lonely voice of John the Baptist exhorts us to prepare a way for the Lord: mountains leveled out, valleys filled in, winding roads made straight, the desert to bloom, the poor people to see justice done, the weak to be no longer exploited, war to be banished from the face of the earth....

"Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is close at hand" – he cries! "Prepare a way for the Lord"!

"The Way" for the Lord is not yet prepared in this world. Look at the state of the world right now! Look at our streets, especially at night, how the evil roars thru with its evil way! You are even scared to take a stroll out there, for fear of being shot. The world has become an awful void, an appalling wilderness.

The Savior came to this world to offer salvation. The Savior, Jesus Christ, sent out His messengers (Christians!) to start preparing a way for the Lord, but they themselves are part of the problem. Many people, baptized into Christ, instead of being the messengers of the Kingdom of God, are agents of the 'kingdom of evil', promoting an evil way of life.

But God's judgment hangs over the world. The axe is laid to the root of the tree, St. John says.

How we are preparing a way of the Lord, in our own circle of parish community? Are we present on Sundays' liturgy to listen to the Lord? Is our home a place of peace? Am I a messenger of the Lord in my place of work?

Heavenly Father, clear a pathway in our hearts so that your Son Jesus Christ can come to us, and the Good News may transform us into the messengers of THY KINGDOM!

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 December 6, 2009

Please join us today after Holy Mass for the YMS of R breakfast.

The next pickup date for pierogi/kielbasa orders will be next Sunday, December 13. Please get your orders to Pat or Carol no later than Thursday. Thank you.

Christmas wafers are available today and every Sunday in December, on the table at the back of the parish hall. Please place \$2.00 per pack in the basket on the table.

The parish committee will meet next Sunday, December 13 following coffee hour. Please mark your calendar.

We will be hosting a community chicken and biscuit dinner on Saturday, December 19 from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. We will be approaching some of you to help in this effort to raise money for our mortgage fund. Then, on Sunday December 20, we will offer the chicken and biscuit dinner to the congregation and anyone you would like to invite to join us. Thanks in advance for your help in this fundraising effort.

Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, December 8 SOLEMNITY – CONCEPTION OF THE BVM
FEAST OF DIVINE LIVE
6:00 pm Choir practice

Thursday, December 10 5:30 pm Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, December 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Intention: +Mary Zalewski Requested by the Zalewski family

10:30 am Bible Study for Children
11:00 am Holy Mass
12:00 pm Coffee Hour
12:45 pm Parish Committee Meeting

COMING UP: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19: Chicken and Biscuit
Dinner for the Community: 4:30 – 7:00 pm
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20: Chicken and Biscuit Dinner following
Holy Mass

Monthly Financial Summary

| Week of | Weekly Income | Weekly Income Needed | Balance |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| November 1 | \$502 | \$642 | -\$140 |
| November 8 | \$ 577 | \$642 | -\$65 |
| November 15 | \$459 | \$642 | -\$183 |
| November 22 | \$808 | \$642 | \$166 |
| November 29 | \$417 | \$642 | -\$225 |
| TOTAL | \$2763 | \$3210 | -\$447 |