

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sunday, January 24, 2010  
11:00 am**

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

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Intention: +Joseph Kolonko      Requested by the Joseph Kolonko family

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Reading I**

Nehemiah 8: 2-4, 5-6, 8-10

**A reading from the book of Nehemiah**

They read from the book of the Law and they understood what was read.

Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. Ezra opened the scroll so that all the people might see it (for he was standing higher up than any of the people); and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, "Amen, amen!" Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground. Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then [Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and] Ezra the priest-scribe [and the Levites who were instructing the people] said to all the people: "Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep" – for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. He said further: "Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!"

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 19: 8, 9, 10, 15

R: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul; the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.**

R: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye.**

R: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true, all of them just.**

R: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

**Let the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart find favor before you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.**

R: Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.

## **Reading II**

I Corinthians 12: 12-30

### **A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

Together you are Christ's body, but each of you is a different part of it.

The body is one and has many members, but all the members, many though they are, are one body; and so it is with Christ. It was in one Spirit that all of us, whether Jew or Greek, slave or free, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. Now the body is not one member, it is many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," would it then no longer belong to the body? If the ear should say, "because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," would it then no longer belong to the body? If the body were all eye, what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our smelling? As it is, God has set each member of the body in the place he wanted it to be. If all the members were alike, where would the body be? There are, indeed, many different members, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," any more than the head can say to the feet, "I do not need you." Even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable. We honor the members we consider less honorable by clothing them with greater care, thus bestowing on the less presentable a propriety which the more presentable already have. God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to the lowly members, that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members share its joy.

You, then, are the body of Christ. Every one of you is a member of it. Furthermore, God has set up in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators, and those who speak in tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles or have the gift of healing? Do all speak in tongues, all have the gift of interpretation of tongues?

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

**Gospel Alleluia      Speak, O Lord, your servant is listening;  
you have the words of everlasting life.**

## **Gospel**

Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

### **A reading of the holy gospel according to Luke**

The scriptures were fulfilled on this day.

Many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events which have been fulfilled in our midst, precisely as those events were transmitted to us by the original eye-witnesses and ministers of the word. I too have carefully traced the whole sequence of events from the beginning, and have decided to set it in writing for you, Theophilus, so that Your Excellency may see how reliable the instruction was that you received.

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region. He was teaching in their synagogues, and all were loud in his praise. He came to Nazareth where he had been reared, and entering the synagogue on the Sabbath as he was in the habit of doing, he stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

"The spirit of the Lord is upon me;  
therefore he has appointed me.  
He has sent me to bring glad tidings  
to the poor, to proclaim liberty to  
captives, recovery of sight to the blind,  
and release to prisoners, to announce  
a year of favor from the Lord."

Rolling up the scroll he gave it back to the assistant and sat down. All in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him. Then he began by saying to them, *"Today this Scripture passages is fulfilled in your hearing."*

**This is the gospel of the Lord.**

**Thoughts from the Pulpit**  
**Good News to This World**

Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

Today's Gospel highlights the fulfilled Prophecy about the Messiah and His Mission:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me, to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." (Luke 4: 18)

One of the first mission of the Messiah, "the Anointed One," is to "bring glad tidings" – the Good News. And one of the first and most important teachings of the Good News that we have received is about our own dignity as human beings. On the very first page of the Bible, in the Old Testament, we learn that we are made in the image and likeness of God, and on the first page of the New Testament we learn about the immensity of that dignity in a way that could never have been imagined as we read about the Son of God taking on our human nature and being born in our likeness! It is so Good and Wonderful News!

Holding and embracing this Great News about human dignity is a key to the survival of human race! There is no other more precious Good News that has been given to This World! The human being is given the Good News about "the liberty to captives", "sight to the blind", "freedom to the oppressed" – from the very moment of its conception to the very end of natural death the passage to life without end.

Unfortunately we observe in our society the total rejection of the Good News. The lives of millions of our unborn brothers and sisters have been and continue to be legally destroyed through embryonic stem-cell research and procured abortion, and the system requires you to pay the expenses from your tax money. The seriously ill or those with special needs or who are advanced in years are increasingly viewed as a burden to be eliminated from society. Our society goes deeper and deeper into numbness on the issue of the moral dignity of a human. We elect our representatives and in majority they work on ignoring God's law and embrace a totalitarianism which labels itself as the "hope" and "future" of our generation.

But by ignoring the God's law and not accepting the Good News teachings from the Savior, this generation can only produce violence and death and in the end destroy itself.

*Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your Son we've received the Gift of the Gospel, and, by accepting it, we experience in our lives your love, your healing, your forgiveness, your*

*compassion - the most beautiful side of being a human. May we share generously with other human beings the blessings we have received from You! 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 January 24, 2010***

Two collections will be taken this morning. The first will be the normal weekly collection. The second will benefit those who in Haiti who are in dire need of help. Please be generous in giving to this worthy cause. Thank you.

The parish committee will meet very briefly after coffee hour this morning. The committee will complete the agenda from last week's meeting. Plan on one-half hour at the most.

Financial statements for 2009 are available this morning on the table in the foyer. If you have any questions or concerns about your statement, please call and leave Pat a message at 468-6140. She will call you back as soon as possible. All financial information for 2009 should be finalized by January 31.

For those of you who are not yet aware, Rose Kolonko was taken to the Lord on Friday morning. Visiting hours are this afternoon from 2:00 – 5:00 at Hollis Funeral Home on West Genesee Street. The funeral mass is schedule for 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning. Burial will be in the spring. We extend our sincere sympathy to the Kolonko family. May she rest in peace.

"Kolenda" visits (pastoral visits & blessing of homes) continue until February 2, 2010. Please call Father Madej to arrange his visit to your home.

To prepare the house for blessing, please dress the table with a white cloth. A cross and Bible or prayer book should be on the table, a candle next to the cross should be lit. The priest will bring Holy Water and chalk to bless and mark your home. This is a visitation by Our Lord. The priest is just the humble instrument of the Lord's action.

## Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, January 27      6:00 pm      Choir practice

Thursday, January 28      5:30 pm      Weight Watchers meeting

Sunday, January 31      ORDINARY 4  
 Intention: + Stanley, Genevieve, Joseph, and Maryanne Lasinski  
                          Requested by Bobbi and John Lasinski

                 10:30      Bible Study for children

                 11:00      Holy Mass

                 12:15      Coffee Hour

**Saturday, February 6    Spaghetti Dinner**

**Sunday, February 7    YMS of R Breakfast**

**Sunday, February 14    Monthly Pickup of  
 Pierogi/Kielbasa Orders**

## Monthly Financial Summary

| Week of      | Weekly<br>Income | Weekly Income<br>Needed | Balance       |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| January 3    | No services      | \$642                   | -\$642        |
| January 10   | \$1140           | \$642                   | -\$108        |
| January 17   | \$617            | \$642                   | -\$25         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$1757</b>    | <b>\$1926</b>           | <b>-\$169</b> |