

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church
31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS**

**Sunday, November 1, 2009
11:00 am**

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

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

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Intention: +all the faithful departed
Readings of Names for All Souls Remembrance

Healing Intentions: Mary Ann Cartner Rose Kolonko
 Lu Luch Michelle Mallory
 Anna Shelly Diane Spina
 Martha Shuman Lois Bogacki
and all others in need of healing in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

9-14

Revelation 7: 2-4,

A reading from the book of Revelation

I saw an immense crowd, beyond hope of counting, of people
from every nation, race, tribe, and language.

I, John, saw another angel come up from the east holding the seal of the living God. He cried out at the top of his voice to the four angels who were given power to ravage the land and the sea, "Do no harm to the land or the sea or the trees until we imprint this seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." I heard the number of those who were so marked – one hundred and forty-four thousand from every tribe of Israel.

After this I saw before me a huge crowd which no one could count from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and the lamb, dressed in long white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, "Salvation is from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb!" All the angels who were standing around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures fell down before the throne to worship God. They said "Amen! Praise and glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, and honor, power and might to our God forever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "Who do you think these are, all dressed in white? And where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you should know better than I." He then told me, "These are the ones who have survived the great period of trial; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24: 1-2, 3-4,

5-6

R: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it. For he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

R: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord? Or who may stand in his holy place? He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean, who desires not what is vain.

R: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior. Such is the race that seeks for him, that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

R: Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face.

Reading II

I John 3:

1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

We shall see God as he really is.

See what love the Father has bestowed on us in letting us be called children of God! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized the Son. Dearly beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope based on him keeps himself pure, as he is pure.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 5: 1-12

A reading of the holy gospel according to St. Matthew

Rejoice and be glad for your reward will be great in heaven.

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them:

"How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.

Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

[Blest are the lowly; they shall inherit the land.]

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness; they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are the single-hearted, for they shall see God.

Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God.

Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake; the reign of God is theirs.

Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.

Be glad and rejoice, for your reward in heaven is great."

This is the gospel of the Lord.

The Most Important Commandment of God

In the Gospel today one of the scribes came up to Jesus and asked a question: Which is the first of all the commandments? In answering Jesus brings the young man to the origins, the great Jewish prayer:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength."

We are called to love wholeheartedly! The entire person has to be engaged to love the God! God loves every person entirely!

Jesus went further and added another part to the great Jewish prayer (Commandment): "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." There's an extremely intimate bond between the love of neighbor and the love of God.

God and His people aren't merely side by side; they are inseparably in God's Communion! God leaves behind in His loving act of creation His "visibility" - and that is His children. He created them in His Own Image.

The Christian religion is the only one religion in this world, the religion created by the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God, Jesus Christ Our Lord(!), that has these two great commandments as one and inseparable. Jesus Christ proclaimed these two commandments with His whole life and His total sacrifice for God and God's people.

This world would be in much better shape if other religions could adopt the concept of these two commandments of love as one and inseparable. Our community would also be in much better shape if our love for God and our neighbor would be not just 'part time,' but with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. 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.

