

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Sunday, December 13, 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: +Mary Zalewski Requested by the Zalewski family

Healing Intentions:           Rose Kolonko                   Josephine Wicks  
                                  Lu Luch                           Michelle Mallory  
                                  Katherine Sztechmiller       Diane Spina  
                                  Martha Shuman               Lois Bogacki  
                                  Joseph Komuda, Jr.

and all others in need of healing in our parish community

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Reading I**

Zephaniah 3: 14-18

**A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah**

The Lord will exult you, over you, he will renew you by his love.

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has removed the judgment against you, he has turned away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said of Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love. He will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

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

**Responsorial Psalm**

Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4, 5-6

R: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**God indeed is my savior; I am confident and unafraid. My strength and my courage is the Lord, and he has been my savior. With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation.**

R: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Give thanks to the Lord, acclaim his name; among the nations make known his deeds, proclaim how exalted is his name.**

R: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Sing praise to the Lord for his glorious achievement; let this be known throughout all the earth. Shout with exultation, O city of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!**

R: Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

**Reading II**

Philippians 4: 4-7

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Philippians**

The Lord is near.

Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, Rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord himself is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus.

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

**Gospel**

Luke 3: 10-18

**A reading of the holy gospel according to St. Luke**

What then, must we do?

The crowds asked John, "What ought we to do?" In reply he said, "Let the man with two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to him, "Teacher, what are we to do?" He answered them, "Exact nothing over and above our fixed amount."

Soldiers likewise asked him, "What about us?" He told them, "Do not bully anyone. Denounce no one falsely. Be content with your pay."

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying: "I am baptizing you in water, but there is one to come who is mightier than I. I am not fit to loosen his sandal strap. He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, but the chaff he will burn in unquenchable fire." Using exhortations of this sort, he preached the good news to the people.

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

**Thoughts from the Pulpit**

[Luke 3: 10-18]

**What Must We Do?**

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent, we hear the voice of St. John the Baptist confronting his audience about how they integrate the gospel into their daily lives.

"Prepare the Way of the Lord" – it is not an abstract call, but the real mission of every human being created by God. Asked about the right way to live, St. John the Baptist avoided lengthy theoretical discourses. (Politicians usually do that.) Rather, he focused immediately on people's behavior.

"Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." (Luke 3:11)

He told tax collectors to stop cheating people. He told soldiers to be honest and just and to stop bullying those weaker than they were. Treat one another with the same love that God has

for you! His stand on life was very clear. It was his blunt, no-nonsense approach to holiness! That clearness about life's goal got him in trouble with the political power of the time (King Herod) and eventually cost him his life!

This Advent time calls us also for a very specific no-nonsense approach to holiness! Being a Christian, how are you living as such?

Take John's advice and prepare the Way of the Lord in your own field of life! Celebrate God's Gifts that are invested in you with respect, honesty, joyfulness, and love! Do not pretend!

It was said about St. John the Baptist: "He came to testify to the light. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light." So, do not pretend! Constantly keep preparing the way of the Lord – for your own Salvation! 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 13, 2009***

Please join us today after Holy Mass for coffee hour. The parish committee will meet at 12:45.

Pierogi and kielbasa can be picked up today or next Sunday after Holy Mass. Price for pierogi are \$6.00/dozen. Kielbasa are 6 for \$10 or \$2.00 each. Supplies of pierogi are limited, so don't wait if you want to get your supply for the holiday season.

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

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 15      6:00 pm      Choir practice

Thursday, December 17      5:30 pm      Weight Watchers meeting  
No meetings on December 24 or December 30 - resumes January 7

Saturday, December 19      4:30 – 7:00      Chicken and Biscuit  
Dinner for the Community

Sunday, December 20      FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Intention: + Intention: +John and Sophie Szczypien  
Requested by Jean Szczypien

10:30 am      Bible Study for Children  
11:00 am      Holy Mass  
12:15 pm      Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

VIGIL OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: Thurs, December 24 @ 5:00 p.m.  
SOLEMNITY – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: Friday, December 25 @ 11:00

Saturday, December 26      SOLEMNITY – ST. STEPHEN, PROTO-MARTYR

### **Monthly Financial Summary**

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Weekly Income</b>	<b>Weekly Income Needed</b>	<b>Balance</b>
December 6	\$497	\$642	-\$145
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$497</b>	<b>\$642</b>	<b>-\$145</b>