

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church**  
**3690 Armstrong Road, P.O. Box 318**  
**Syracuse, NY 13209-0318**  
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**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Septagesima Sunday**

**11:00 am**

**February 20, 2011**

Intention: +

Healing Intentions:

Michelle Mallory	Lu Luch
Martha Shuman	Diane Spina
Lois Bogacki	Bill Moran
Father John Fetcho	Jean Horan
Erika Zalewski	Mike Corn
Rosemarie Piazza	Jon Hall
Bobby Lenweaver	Josephine Wicks

and all those in need of healing in our parish community

### **The Liturgy of the Word**

#### **Reading I**

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 17-18

#### **A reading from the book of Leviticus**

You must love your neighbor, as yourself.

The Lord said to Moses, "Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.

"You shall not bear hatred for your brother in your heart. Though you may have to reprove your fellow man, do not incur sin because of him. Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against your fellow countrymen. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord."

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

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 103: 102, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.**

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

**He pardons all your iniquities; he heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction; he crowns you with kindness and compassion.**

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. Not according to our sins does he deal with us, nor does he requite us according to our crimes.**

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

**As far as the east is from the west, so far has he put our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.**

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

## **Reading II**

I Corinthians 3: 16-23

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

All things are yours, but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, and you are that temple.

Let no one delude himself. If any one of you thinks he is wise in a worldly way, he had better become a fool. In that way he will really be wise, for the wisdom of this world is absurdity with God. Scripture say, "He catches the wise in their craftiness"; and again, "The Lord knows how empty are the thoughts of the wise." Let there be no boasting about men. All things are yours, whether it be Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the word, or life, or death, or the present, or the future: All these are yours, and you are Christ's and Christ is God's.

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

## **Gospel**

Matthew 5: 38-48

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

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: *"You have heard the commandment, 'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.' But what I say to you is: offer no resistance to injury. When a person strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer him the other. If anyone wants to go to law over your shirt, hand him your coat as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the man who begs from you. Do not turn your back on the borrower.*

*"You have heard the commandment, 'You shall love your countryman but hate your enemy.' My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors. This will prove that you are sons of your heavenly Father, for his sun rises on the bad and the good, he rains on the just and the unjust. If you love those who love you, what merit is there in that? Do not tax collectors do as much? And if you greet your brothers only, what is so praiseworthy about that? Do not pagans do as much? In a word, you must be perfected as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

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

## **Thoughts from the Pulpit:**

### **The Christian Response to Violence**

Today's Gospel, from the Sermon on the Mount, presents the Code of Holiness to the followers of Christ – "Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy!" (from the first Reading). "Offer no resistance to one who is evil." (today's Gospel).

In today's Gospel, Jesus recounts the oldest written law in the world, the Law of the Talion, "Lex Talionis", which states 'such for such', 'tit for tat', 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth'. This Law was also mentioned in the Code of Hammurabi in Babylon and in Mosaic Law as well. In recounting this ancient human law, Jesus Christ not only confronts it, but in contrast He reinstitutes God's original Law of Love, the Law of Holiness, Jesus' Law - the Law that for

injury or violence we are to return a blessing; for physical violence we are to offer of other cheek as well; that those who are forced into labor return with the offer to go an extra mile.

This Jesus' Law of Holiness, if practiced, would quench most violence on earth. It is a giant step upward and forward that Jesus asks his followers. The early Christians found it as difficult as we do, the Law of Love that in two thousand years the world has proved itself unable to grow into. And for the most part it is only marginally practiced. But nevertheless a new world order has begun. Jesus demands that we are to offer no resistance to one who is evil.

The strongest motif urging us to practice Jesus' Law of holiness is emphasized in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading today, 1 Cor. 3:16-23. "Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" That means that the temple of our body has been consecrated to God and it is to be used only for holy purposes. So, those who abuse other people in any way pay the consequence of God's ultimate response, for the Bible has it: "If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy." This should make us think twice before violating the dignity and holiness of our bodies and of others through whatever sins we tend to fall into!

The point is this: if we do not respect the dignity of our own person, we will not be able to respect the dignity of any other person. Jesus Christ reveals to us that we are indeed THE CHILDREN OF GOD! So we are made to love and be loved, to be holy, to be a child of God. And there is no room in our lives for abusiveness and violence! In this context the Code of Holiness introduced by Jesus Christ in today's Gospel makes sense, and by all means it is not radical. It is the Way of quenching the roaring violence of this world!

So, let us start to use Jesus' Law of Holiness in everyday life situations, maybe beginning with a little forgiveness and continue in bigger and bigger steps of Love to the highest point of loving your enemy. Amen!

### Announcements for February 20, 2011

#### Financial Corner

Week of	Weekly Income	Weekly Income Needed	Balance
February 6	\$1345	\$673	\$672
February 13	\$522	\$673	-\$151
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1867</b>	<b>\$1346</b>	<b>\$552</b>

Please join us after Holy Mass **this morning** for coffee hour. Thanks to Richard Zalewski for the treats!

If you have not done so already, please see Pat or Joe **this morning** to sign up for the work crew for our community **spaghetti dinner**, scheduled for **this Saturday, February 26**. Thank you!

If you are unable to attend the spaghetti dinner **this Saturday**, you can order dinners for takeout, to be picked up on Sunday morning, the 27<sup>th</sup>, after Holy Mass. Please complete one of the takeout order forms available on the table in the parish hall **today** and turn it in to Pat. Dinners can be prepaid today or paid for at time of pickup. Thank you!

Starting on **March 13, the first Sunday of Lent**, Father Senior Madej will begin an adult Bible Study on the books of the Old Testament, based on a video lecture series. Each Sunday from 12:30 to 1:00 pm, the adult class will view a short video piece (about 15 minutes) followed by Father Senior's commentary and a group discussion of the selection. If you are interested in joining the group, please sign up on the sheet posted in the parish hall. Thank you!

From Father John Fetcho (retired, *Our Lady of Peace RCC*): *Dear Father and parishioners of Holy Cross Church, Your special ways and generous heart make a beautiful difference. Thank you so much. Be assured of my prayers for your intentions. I appreciate your friendship and great spirit. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His care. Father John*

### **Weekly Calendar**

Wednesday, February 23      4:00 pm    Choir practice

Thursday, February 24      **FEAST – MATTHIAS, APOSTLE**  
5:00 Polish language class @ Solvay Youth Center,  
Woods Road, Solvay

Saturday, February 26      4:00 – 6:30 pm      **COMMUNITY SPAGHETTI DINNER**

Sunday, February 27      **Ordinary 8**  
**Sexagesima Sunday**

Intention: +

10:30      Bible Study for children

11:00      Holy Mass

12:15      Coffee Hour

**Pickup Takeout Spaghetti Dinners**

**LENTEN SCHEDULE BEGINS Wednesday, March 9**

**5:00 pm    Ash Wednesday Services  
with distribution of ashes**