

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church  
Vigil of the Nativity of Our Lord**

**Friday, December 24, 2010  
5:00 pm**

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

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Intention: all those in need of healing in our parish community

**The Liturgy of the Word**

**Reading I**

Isaiah 9: 1-6

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

A son is given to us.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing, as they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils. For the yoke that burdened them, the pole on their shoulder, and the rod of their taskmaster you have smashed, as on the day of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak rolled in blood, will be burned as fuel for flames.

For a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests. They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace. His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, from David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains by judgment and justice, both now and forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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

**Responsorial Psalm**

Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13

R: Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all you lands. Sing to the Lord; bless his name.**

R: Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**Announce his salvation, day after day. Tell his glory among the nations; among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.**

R: Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound; let the plains be joyful and all that is in them! Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.**

R: Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

**They shall exult before the Lord, for he comes; for he comes to rule the earth. He shall rule the world with justice and the peoples with his constancy.**

R: Today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.

## **Reading II**

Titus 2: 11-14

### **A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus**

God's grace has been revealed to all men.

The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all men. It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires, and live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age as we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and of our Savior Christ Jesus. It was he who sacrificed himself for us, to redeem us from all unrighteousness and to cleanse for himself a people of his own, eager to do what is right.

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

**Gospel Alleluia      Good News and great joy for all the world;  
today is born our Savior, Christ the Lord.**

## **Gospel**

Luke 2: 1-14

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

Today a savior has been born to you.

In those days Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to register, each to his own town. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to David's town of Bethlehem – because he was of the house and lineage of David – to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was with child.

While they were there, the days of her confinement were completed. She gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where travelers lodged.

There were shepherds in the locality, living in the fields and keeping night watch by turns over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them, as the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were very much afraid.

The angel said to them: "You have nothing to fear! I come to proclaim good news to you – tidings of great joy to be shared by the whole people. This day in David's city a savior has been born to you, the Messiah and Lord. Let this be a sign to you: in a manger you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes." Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in high heaven, peace on earth to those on whom his favor rests."

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

## **Christmas Message from your Pastor...**

***Everything comes through the Grace of God!***

The Grace of God brings us to this wonderful Christmas of 2010!

God's Grace has been at work in a special miraculous way since the very First Christmas!

It was God's marvelous Grace that enabled Mary to become the Mother of God in her "YES" to God's Plan.

The Grace of God was moving powerfully in all the events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

God's Work caused people to leap for joy, sing praise to the Lord, and learn how to trust in God more fully as they journeyed through all Christmases of two thousand years, until now. All of these people were able to recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

How can it be that the doubting Zechariah was filled with the Spirit?  
How can it be that the barren Elizabeth was able to conceive?  
How can it be that the aged Simeon recognized the Messiah in a poor infant?  
How can it be that millions of millions of Christ's witnesses for the last two thousand years were able to carry heavenly gifts on the face of the earth?  
It was by the Grace of God!

God wants to pour out again on this Christmas the same Grace on our Parish, on our community, on our families, on us!  
On this Christmas He wants all of us to recognize His Only Begotten Son Jesus Christ the Messiah!

Sometimes we can feel barren and forgotten.

Sometimes we, like Zechariah, doubt God's ability to work in our lives.

Sometimes we can be like Simeon, and think that our waiting will never end.

Yet new hope came to each of these people when they least expected it, and they were able to experience Beautiful Christmas! So it can happen to you if you will approach to it with humility and reconciliation.

I extend my best wishes for your blessed Christmas. May Our Lord and Savior bless you with a good health and happiness in the Coming New Year!

**Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia I Szczesliwego Nowego Roku!**

*With Christ's Love,  
Fr. Sr. Walter Madej, Pastor*