

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

**Saturday, December 25, 2010
11:00 am**

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

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Intention: all those in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

Isaiah 62: 11-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Your savior is born.

See, the Lord proclaims to the ends of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, your savior comes! Here is his reward with him, his recompense before him. They shall be called the holy people, the redeemed of the Lord, and you shall be called "Frequented," a city that is not forsaken.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 97: 1, 6, 11-12

R: A light will shine on this day: the Lord is born to us.

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice; let the many isles be glad. The heavens proclaim his justice, and all peoples see his glory.

R: A light will shine on this day: the Lord is born to us.

Light dawns for the just: and gladness, for the upright of heart. Be glad in the Lord, you just, and give thanks to his holy name.

R: A light will shine on this day: the Lord is born to us.

Reading II

Titus 3: 4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

His own compassion saved us.

When the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any righteous deeds we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the baptism of new birth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he lavished on us through Jesus Christ our Savior, that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs, in hope, of eternal life.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Gospel Alleluia Glory to God in heaven,
peace and grace to his people on earth.**

Gospel

Luke 2: 15-20

A reading of the holy gospel according to Luke

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, lying in the manger.

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us." They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger; once they saw, they understood what had been told them concerning this child. All who heard of it were astonished at the report given them by the shepherds.

Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, in accord with what had been told them.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Christmas Mystery ... Reflection

Today we celebrate the profound mystery of the Incarnation, that is, the coming into our world the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior of the world! It is the central mystery of our faith. God invites us to welcome this central mystery in the spirit of faith and love, and not in the rush of commercialized shallow consumerism.

"Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts, But who will endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when he appears? For He is like the refiner's fire, He will sit refining and purifying silver, and He will purify the sons of men..." (Prophet Malachi 3:1-4)

If only we had been allowed to manage welcoming Christmas in faith and love, how differently we would have done things! How better people we would have been! What a splash we would have made in the world as the true Christian Messengers of Christmas!

The purpose of Christmas rests in God's desire to bring priceless and everlasting Gift – His only Begotten Son – to live in us and with us, to teach us that we are not dust, but precious sons and daughters of the Heavenly Father, and thus making us capable of living to the brims and fullness of human goodness! Capable of giving and sharing in the spirit of Love that comes from God as the Source of Love!

It is very obvious, as we can see, the world today is still not ready yet to welcome the Mystery of Christmas. Worse yet we can see, "Christmas is under attack across America"

The Christians in our country ask the legitimate question: "Is there any other faith that is discouraged from celebrating its sacred days the way that Christianity in America is"?

"But who will endure the day of his coming?"

In order to "endure the day of his coming", THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS, we need to return to the basic human source of our existence. We need to return to God who created us, so we humbly can realize how close God is in us and how He lovingly wants us to live in peace and goodness as real human in the Human Family on earth!

Merry Christmas! Wishing you all the wonderful blessings from Our Lord and Savior for years to come and forever!

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