

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

**Friday, December 25, 2009
5:00 pm**

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

WEBSITE: <http://www.holycrossncc.org>
EMAIL: holycrossncc@espeedusa.com

Intention: prayers for peace around the world

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.

Thoughts from the Pulpit

Everything Comes Through the Grace of God!

The Grace of God brings us to this wonderful Christmas of 2009! 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 it with humility and reconciliation.

Our Lord, Almighty God, Our Father

You bring us to this Wonderful Christmas 2009 to meditate on and rejoice in Thy continual Love for us human Family on earth.

Open our hearts in welcome thy Gift!

Remove the darkness of our hearts that hinder us from receiving with appreciation and love Thy Heavenly Gift for this earth – Thy Son and Our Messiah. So that we may share His Wisdom and his Love, and thus be able to build Thy Peace on Earth! 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 25, 2009

If you have forgotten your envelope or are visiting and would like to place a donation in an envelope, packs of extra envelopes are in each pew. Just add your name and the amount of your contribution to the front of the envelope. Thank you!!

Envelopes for 2010 are available on the tables in the foyer today. If you do not find envelopes in your name and would like them issued to you, please see Pat.

Stewardship obligations for 2009 can be accepted until December 31. Please remember that basic stewardship is \$275 per individual adult and \$50 per individual adult for cemetery improvement. Please contact Pat if you have questions about your personal stewardship for 2009.

Weekly Calendar

Friday, December 25	SOLEMNITY – NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Intention: prayers for peace around the world Holy Mass 11:00
Saturday, December 26	FEAST – St. Stephen, Proto-Martyr
Sunday, December 27	SOLEMNITY – HUMBLE SHEPHERDS [FEAST – St. John, Apostle and Evangelist] Intention: +John Sullivan 11:00 Holy Mass 12:00 Coffee Hour

Upcoming Events

Saturday	January 9	Fresh Pork Dinner 4:30 – 7:00 pm
Sunday	January 10	Oplatek Dinner following Holy Mass
Sunday	January 19	Parish Committee Meeting

Monthly Financial Summary

Week of	Weekly Income	Weekly Income Needed	Balance
December 6	\$497	\$642	-\$145
December 13	\$407	\$642	-\$235
December 20	\$829	\$642	\$187
December 24	\$346	-	\$346
TOTAL	\$2079	\$1926	\$153