

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church  
Solemnity of the Humble Shepherds**

**Sunday, December 27, 2009  
11:00 am**

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

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Intention: +John Sullivan      Requested by Maureen and Rick Navatka

**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**

**Christmas Mystery... - Reflection for 2009**

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 welcome 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." (I refer to a column article by Deidre Rely in OD on Sunday, December 20, 2009). The author of this article asks the readers: "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, 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 our human life 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!  
*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 27, 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**

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

**Monthly Financial Summary (next page)**

### Monthly Financial Summary

<b>Week of</b>	<b>Weekly Income</b>	<b>Weekly Income Needed</b>	<b>Balance</b>
December 6	\$497	\$642	-\$145
December 13	\$407	\$642	-\$235
December 20	\$829	\$642	\$187
December 24	\$346	-	\$346
December 25	\$178	-	\$331
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2257</b>	<b>\$1926</b>	<b>\$331</b>