January 30, 2022

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

A People Who Love and a Place to Grow



223 E. Front Avenue | Stockton, IL 61085 | 815-947-2545

EUCHARIST

SAT 4:30 pm SUN 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 5:00 pm MON 9:00 am TUES 7:00 am THU 9:00 am FRI 7:00 am

OFFICE HOURS MON WED THU 8:30 am-1:30 pm

RECONCILIATION

Come experience God's love & mercy. SAT 3:30 pm SUN 9:30-9:50 am

RELIGIOUS EDUCATIO

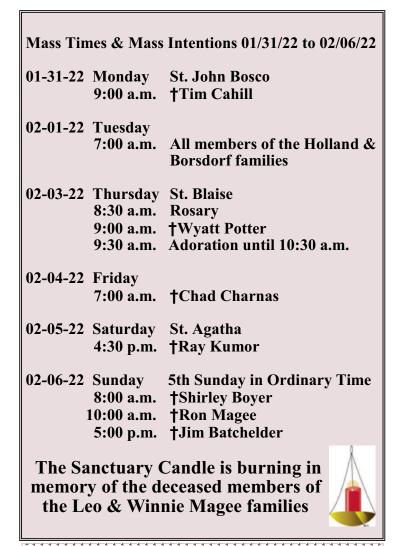
Preschool-7th grade SUN 8:50-9:50 am (Sept-April) Youth Group 8th-12th grade Meets monthly

CONNECT

PARISH EMAIL holycross096@yahoo.com RELIGIOUS EDUCATION EMAIL holycrossre@yahoo.com WEB holycross.weconnect.com FAX 815-947-3705 Find us on FACEBOOK! RECTORY 815-947-2751

There are so many people we need to pray for...we have a number of people who are at home and not able to get out and join us for the Eucharist on weekends due to health and weather concerns, a number of people undergoing treatment for cancer, a number of our youth who will be Confirmed February 13 who seek to grow in their faith and strive to follow Jesus more closely in their daily life, a number of people in nursing care centers who feel isolated and often lonely as the days pass so slowly, a number of people who are struggling to feed their kids and provide for them as they would want to and rely upon the SNOW program to help, a number of our children preparing for their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion who, together with their parents, need the encouragement and strength of our prayers, the Blue Nuns at the Madonna Renewal Center in Freeport who need support, help and encouragement in their wonderful work with young ladies who are pregnant seeking help and support, a number of people recovering from COVID, having to take time off work and school, our Church in need of vocations to the Religious life and Priesthood, and the list goes on.... Let us pray each day for these people and needs and ask God to bless and continue to provide for them and all of us as we strive to live faithful lives. Thank you. Fr. Mike





PRAYER REQUESTS

May they be touched by the healing hand of the Lord and be restored soon to the full and active life of their families and our community.

Greg Althof, Robin Broshous, Rita Brown, Chris & Jim Eastwood, Betty Finnegan, Jack Finnegan, Matthew Foltz, Janet Groezinger, Paul Heller, Bill Homb, Shawn Homb, Ilene Lamm, Kit Leitzen, Rita Magee, Mark Puls, Yvonne Raether, Rosemary Schultz, Don Schwartz, Ed Vondra, Eunice Vondra, Carl White, Janice Wright, Jeff Wright

PRO-LIFE ROSARY Second Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m. Fifth Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Fifth Sunday at 7:30 a.m. & 9:30 a.m.

PARISH SUPPORT ~ January 23, 2022 Sunday Offering: \$2554.07

Your generosity enables us to continue the work Jesus began.

Holy Cross will offer a five session book review of the book titled <u>The Four Last Things: A</u> <u>Catechetical Guide to Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell</u>. Few things in this earthly life are absolutely certain, but the most undebatable of these is death. Every person, even the atheist will admit that death is certain. Death however is not the last event in this life of ours. Immediately after death, we shall be judged and then again on the Day of Judgment, when all humanity will know us for what we are.

Too often the reality of Heaven and salvation are highlighted at the expense of the Church's teachings on Death, Judgment, Purgatory and Hell. Yet, these important doctrines of the church hold the truth of salvation, truths that can lead us to Heaven or can pull us away from it.

In these pages we are shown that God has not called us to His wrath, but to salvation. He shows us that Heaven and Hell, salvation and damnation, eternal life and eternal punishment are all complementary doctrines. They need each other to be complete and we must understand the Church's teaching on all of these doctrines in order to have a balanced view of the world.

Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell, these are the four Last Things toward which we are moving each hour of the day and night. Read this book and you'll have a firm grasp of one of the most important doctrines of Holy Mother Church that holds the truths of Heaven and our own salvation.

A signup sheet will be available in the narthex from January 22^{nd} -February 6th. Books will then be ordered. Classes will be held on five consecutive Wednesdays beginning on March 2^{nd} through March 30^{th} at 9:00 am in the parish hall. March 2^{nd} is Ash Wednesday and if mass is held at 9:00 am, class will follow immediately after mass.

St. Blaise | February 3

You may be familiar with the annual "blessing of throats" that many parishes in the United States use to commemorate the beloved bishop and martyr. St. Blaise lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. Due to religious persecution, he was forced to flee and hide in a cave in the back country in order to save his life.



History has it that one day a group of hunters stumbled upon where St. Blaise was living. They found the bishop kneeling in prayer, surrounded by wolves, lions, and bears that he had tamed. The legend has it that as the hunters dragged Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone and thus lived.

Today we remember the saint on his feast day by taking two candles, crossing them against the throat, and saying the following prayer:

Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

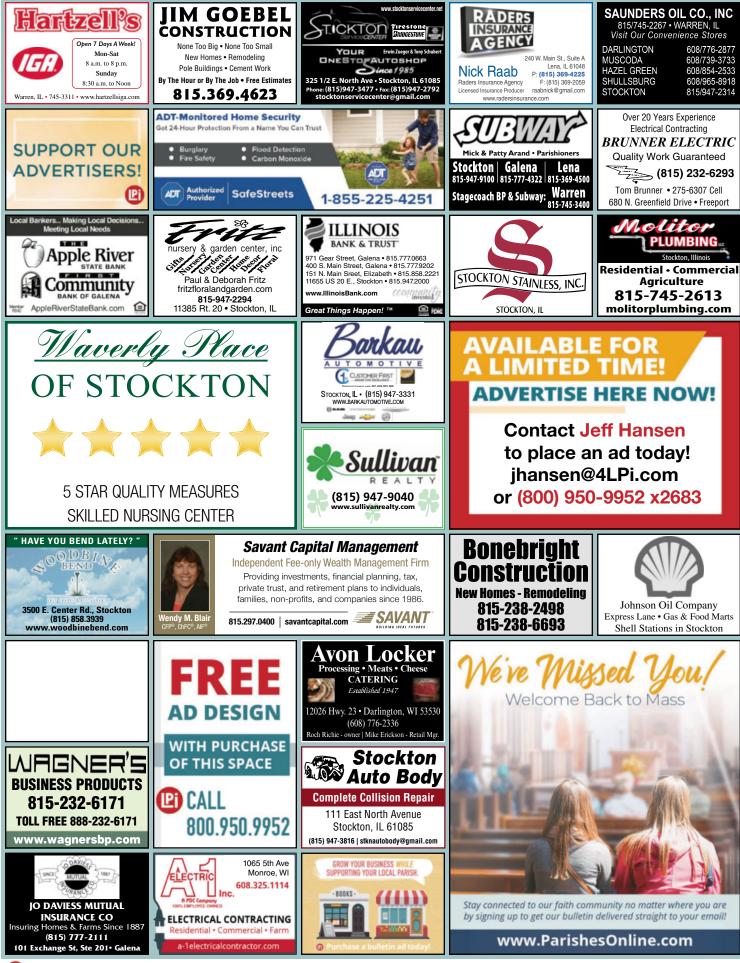


CONFIRMATION STUDENTS

Our youth, along with youth from Hanover, have been preparing since last year to be confirmed in our Catholic faith here at our Parish on February 13, 2022 at 1:00PM by Bishop David J. Malloy, of Rockford. We ask for your prayers for them and ask the Holy Spirit to fill them and guide them with wisdom and courage to live the gift of faith planted within them at Baptism. Our youth are:

Lucas Brenner, Masyn Cahill, Jazmine Curtiss, Emma Demeter, Brianna Edler, Landon Grindey, Lila Grindey, Kaiya Hill, Oliver McPeek, Randy McPeek, Ireland Mensendike, John Mensendike, Eden Moore, Eli Moore, Cody Noller, Evelyn Noller, & Logan Scott

Parish FUNDRAISER Scrip cards make great gifts! Orders received Monday will be here the following Monday for pick up. It also helps our parish as a portion of the card money comes back to Holy Cross. Please contact Connie Larson in the office for more information. Thank you for supporting our parish Scrip Program.



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Holy Cross, Stockton, IL