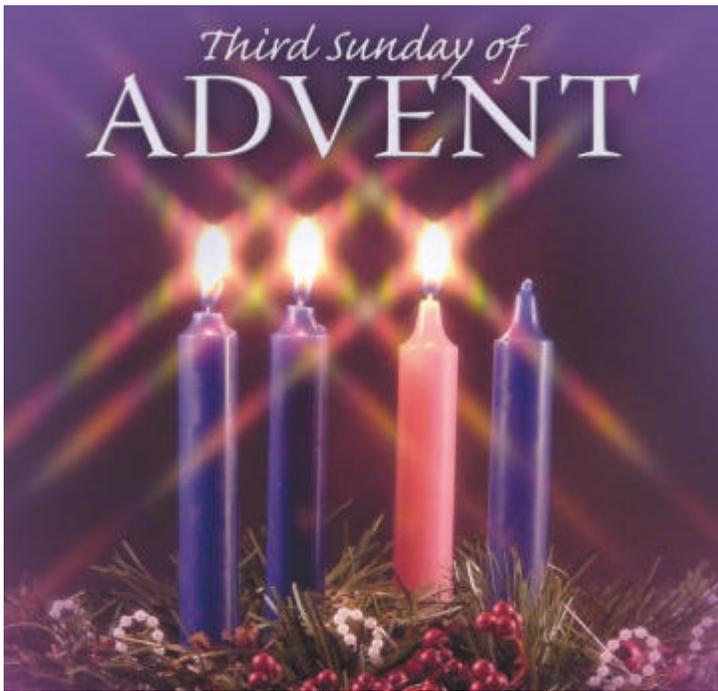


HOLY CROSS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

PARISH FOUNDED AND STAFFED BY THE CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS SINCE 1966



DECEMBER 12, 2021

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME

Please introduce yourselves and register in order to become a member of this community of believers. We welcome your gifted presence in the life of our parish.

OUR MISSION

Holy Cross Parish, a community centered in the Eucharist, is committed in faith and love of Jesus Christ to fulfill the profoundly human and spiritual needs of its parishioners and the larger community it serves. We seek to inspire all, through deeds and by example, to do the work of Christ: to make God known, loved, and served.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass

Monday - Friday 9:00am

Weekend Mass

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Sunday 8:30am, 10:00am, 5:30pm

Holy Days of Obligation

9:00am, 7pm

Confession

Saturday 3:15 - 3:45pm

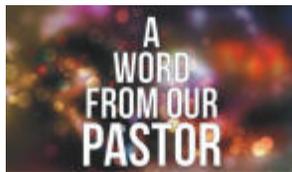
Other by Appointment

Pastoral Staff

Fr. Bradley J. Metz, C.S.C., Pastor
Fr. John M. Santone, C.S.C., Parochial Vicar
Deacon Gary Donahue, Pastoral Associate
Margaret Dwyer-Hogan, Dir. Of Faith Formation
Deborah Kelley, Finance
Christopher Iannitelli, Director Of Music
Paul Celia, Plant Manager
Lindsay Franzoni, Parish Administrative Assistant

- ◆ 225 Purchase Street • Easton, MA 02375
- ◆ info@holycrosseaston.org
- ◆ Monday - Friday 9:00am-4:00pm
- ◆ 508.238.2235
- ◆ www.holycrosseaston.org
- ◆ www.facebook.com/holycrossparisheaston.ma
- ◆ <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/holycrosschurch>

HOLY CROSS CHURCH



Dear Parishioners:

Happy Third Sunday of Advent, also known by its Latin name of *Gaudete*. It is the first word in the opening antiphon for the Mass: “*Gaudete* (Rejoice) in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed the Lord is near” (Phil 4:4-5). We light the rose colored candle to help us see that we are now more than halfway through this holy season. There is shift in the opening prayer from focusing on Christ’s returning in glory to harkening back to our Lord’s Nativity, his first coming as the incarnation of God’s Word, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us always and being renewed in our hearts this year.

We again hear about John the Baptist in the Gospel of Luke. However, the focus is not like last week in that John’s message is one of preparing the way for the Lord to come as much now pondering how we are to live in the Lord. Sharing, acting justly, living honestly with compassion and love for others. The second half of today’s gospel foreshadows the end of the Christmas Season when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Jesus will forever link John’s baptizing with water into his own baptizing with the Holy Spirit and fire in order to bring about a new creation sprung from the old.

The readings beginning this Friday, December 17th, are really exciting since most of the first readings are the prophecies about the coming Messiah and the story of Sampson’s birth after Hannah’s prayer to God. The gospels are the unfolding story of John and Jesus’ births leading us to the evening of December 24th. The ancient O Antiphons are the verses during the alleluia for the gospel and the antiphon introducing each evening prayer’s Magnificat. It is truly a time of rejoicing and anticipating how the baby Jesus in the manger will once again change and effect our lives for bringing more joy to the world.

I am rejoicing with you because the 2021 Holly Fair is back in the parish center this weekend. The Cookie Stroll, Santa, Silent Auction items, Wine Pull are back as well. We are back for this most wonderful time of the year. **All won and purchased items need to be taken home with you or picked up in the parish center during regular business hours (M-F 9:00am-4:00pm) this week. We do not ship.** Thank you for your participation in this year’s Holly Fair. Your generosity and participation are greatly appreciated in support of Holy Cross Parish.



I am rejoicing after praying and spending time with **this year’s parish Marian Medal recipient Alex Alfieri** and his family last Sunday for the special evening prayer service and conferral of the medals by Bishop da Cunha at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Fall River. Fr. John and I were there and then enjoyed dinner out with Alex, Tracy, and their family. Alex and Tracy joined the parish around 1997. Alex was part of the construction and funding of the parish center, his company installed the HVAC system, he served a term on the Parish Council, and with fellow parishioner, Rob Tarallo, co-chaired the Br. Madigan Golf Tournament annually in June. Most importantly, he is a faithful and dedicated parishioner who regularly practices his faith here with Tracy and are beloved neighbors and friends to many in



Easton and beyond. Congratulations, Alex!

I am rejoicing as many of you have and are bringing joy into the hearts of many people this coming Christmas through volunteering at My Brother’s Keeper, your own company giving drives, preparing food boxes, but most especially through **your generosity here at Holy Cross in your response to the parish Giving Tree**. I can only imagine the joy, gratitude and happiness so many children, teens and adults will experience this Christmas because of you sharing from your time and treasure. Thank you once again for your generous response and heartfelt compassion to those in need. May God continue to bless you and your family as we all head toward celebrating the great feasts of the Christmas Season.



God Bless,
Fr. Brad

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. John of the Cross
14 December



St. John of the Cross was born on 24 June 1541 at Fontiveros, Old Castile, Spain. He was the youngest son of Juan de Yepes, a silk weaver, and Alvarez. John's father died soon after his birth leaving his mother to raise the children on her own. At seventeen, John began working at a hospital in Medina while also studying at the Jesuit college in the same city.

At the age of twenty-two John joined the Carmelites and took the name Juan de Santo Matía. He continued his studies and in 1567 was ordained a priest. On a visit home he met Teresa of Avila, a Carmelite nun, and told her that he was contemplating becoming a Carthusian monk to embrace a life of deeper solitude and prayer, but she persuaded him to remain a Carmelite and join her efforts in reforming the Order.

On 28 November 1568, John and four others founded the first men's house and began the Discalced Carmelites. Together they lived a contemplative life of prayer. John spent nine years working to reform the Order leading to increasing opposition, misunderstanding, great divisions, and persecution. In 1577 John was arrested and placed in a dark, damp, narrow cell. This led to his "dark night of the soul" as John was alone with only his God!

While imprisoned John wrote poetry, expressing in his prison-cross the ecstasy of mystical union with God. He wrote how the cross leads to resurrection, agony to ecstasy, darkness to light, abandonment to possession, denial of self to union with God. John died on 14 December 1591 and was canonized a saint in 1726. In 1926 Pope Pius XI proclaimed John a "Doctor of the Church."

Reflection Question: St. John of the Cross wrote, "If you want to save your life, you must lose it." In today's world happiness is measured by how much we have and how comfortable our possessions make us. We move away from words like self-denial, mortification, purification, asceticism, discipline. The message of St. John of the Cross is that if we truly want to live, we must focus not on the things of the earth but what our faith provides. What does that mean to you?

MASS INTENTIONS

✠Saturday, December 11

4:00pm Laurie Aviabile
Requested from Diane McGuinness

✠Sunday, December 12

8:30am Doloris Fierro 1st Anniversary
Requested from Thomas and Dianne Kincaid

10:00am Alice Bubello

Requested from Nancy and Gary Donahue

5:30pm People of Holy Cross Parish

✠Monday, December 13

9:00am Julia Galeota
Requested from Mary Marsh

✠Tuesday, December 14

9:00am

✠Wednesday, December 15

9:00am Stanley and Thomas Girdvainis
Requested By Marianne and Don Klok

✠Thursday, December 16

9:00am Joseph B. McHugh 57th Anniversary
Requested by Murphy Family

✠Friday, December 17

9:00am

✠Saturday, December 18

4:00pm Mary Rose Domingos
Requested by Her Children and Grandchildren

✠Sunday, December 19

8:30am

10:00am James Kevin Burns
Requested from Family

5:30pm Kevin J. McIntyre Birthday Remembrance
Requested by Eileen McIntyre

SPONSOR A DAY

Thank you to the following parishioners who sponsored a day in December:

Dan Corbett	Stephen & Kerry Pires
Dave & Jenna Nelson	Mark & Diane Jussaume
Donna Voltolini	Derek and Heather Hanson
Thomas Bono	David and Christine Blleloch
Kathleen Curtiss	The Gaultier Family
Nicole Lang	Mark and Roula Lombardi
Brian and Candace Shockley	Jeff & Tracy Robarge
Joe & Muriel Studley	Sylvia Nowakowski
David and Paula Keane	Anne Tarallo
Richard and Nancy Quinn	

Thank You

HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Announcements

MAINSRING SHELTER MEALS THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

December 18, 2021

Please let us know what you plan to bring a few days ahead. This will help us prepare to serve about 130 guests

Cathy Downes: 508 742 5957 cathy.downes@verizon.net

Trish Murphy: 508 813 1880 triciamurph@gmail.com

Deliver cooked food items to the lower kitchen behind the Parish Center from 1:00 to 2:45 PM.

Meal Suggestions:

Cooked, sliced chicken	Cooked, sliced ham
Potatoes	Fresh fruit
Pasta dishes w/meat & sauce	Macaroni & Cheese
Cooked vegetables	Stuffing & Gravy
Tossed Salad & Dressing	Bread or Rolls
Cranberry sauce	Desserts

Servers are not needed at this time

To Receive Flocknotes for Mainspring Meals or to sign up for Holy Cross Flocknotes at holycrossparish.flocknote.com/everyone

Contact cathy.downes@verizon.net or triciamurph@gmail.com for more info

From the Health Ministry and Parish Nurse 12 Healthy Holiday Season Tips

1. Wash hands often for 20 seconds to prevent the spread of germs and prevent viruses.
2. Bundle up to stay dry and warm. Wear light warm layers, gloves, hats, scarves and waterproof boots.
3. Manage stress – Get plenty of sleep, give yourself a break, find support and connect socially.
4. Don't drink and drive or let others drink and drive.
5. Be smoke-free. Avoid smoking and secondhand smoke.
6. Fasten seat belts in car. Always buckle up along with passengers and children should be in proper child safety seats or booster seats.
7. Get the medical exams and screenings you need when recommended by MD.
8. Get vaccinations and booster shots. They help prevent diseases and save lives!
9. Monitor children. Protect them from drowning, burns, falls and keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks and household items.
10. Practice Fire Safety. Don't leave fireplaces, space heaters, food cooking on stoves or candles unattended. Have and practice an emergency plan.
11. Prepare food safely. Wash Hands and surfaces often, avoid cross contamination, cook foods to proper temperatures and refrigerate food promptly.
12. Eat healthy and stay active!!!! Eat fruits and vegetables and limit foods high in fat, salt and sugar. Be active for 2 ½ hours a week and encourage kids and teens to be active 1 hour per day.

Information adapted from CDC recommendations.



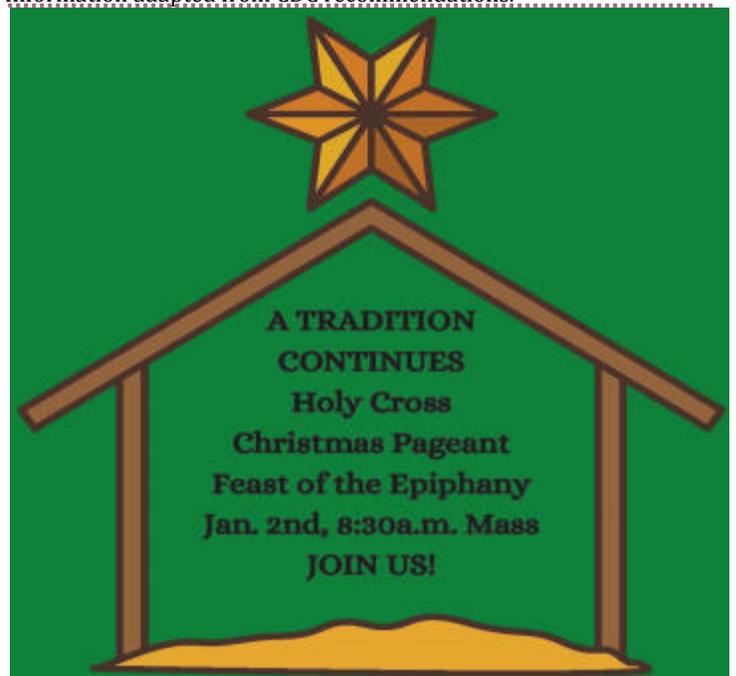
We are in need of adult and parent volunteers during our confirmation 2 classes. Please contact Mrs. Hogan if you are available to help. mdhogan@holycrosseaston.org



We are interested in recruiting additional hospitality ministers and ushers for all weekend Masses. If you're interested in being a part of this important parish ministry, please contact Fr. John



Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center is seeking to fill 3 part-time positions in our Attleboro office. Positions include a Nurse Manager (RN), Client Services Coordinator and Administrative Liaison. We are looking for self-motivated, team-oriented individuals of high integrity who possess a great pro-life work ethic and is passionate about fulfilling Christ's work right here in our community. If you are interested in learning more, please email Director@ahprc.org. This just may be the answer to your prayers this Christmas



<https://holycrossparish.flocknote.com/signup/75849>

Please join us for the annual Holly Fair Fundraiser this weekend.

The Holly Fair is happening in real time (i.e. Now!) in the Parish Center. Here's why you will want to attend:

10. New themed baskets for youth, teens, men & women.
9. Toast the holiday season with spirits from the wine pull.
8. Flavorful jams & organic salts ready-to-purchase.
7. Fun & delicious items for children at the Buck-A-Bag table.
6. Homemade cookies & treats? Yes! Be sure to visit the Cookie Stroll.
5. Always walk away with a gift card at the Snowflake raffle.
4. Live theater & major sports events? We got tickets at the Silent Auction.
3. Santa missed us in 2020, but is visiting the Holly Fair NOW.
2. Enjoy the Christmas music & see Fr. Brad sing a carol!
1. We are LIVE again & look forward to the blessing of your company.

The graphic features a red background with green holly leaves and berries at the top. The title "2021 Holly Fair" is written in a green cursive font. Below the title, the dates "Dec 11 from 3-7 pm & Dec 12 from 9-1 pm" are displayed in green. Various promotional elements are arranged around the center: a lottery ticket with a "\$1,000,000 Extreme Cash" prize, a yellow arrow pointing to a yellow box that says "Take a chance at the lottery tree table!"; a blue patterned cloth; a green triangle containing the text "\$1 for a fun bag of toys & treats!"; a wicker basket filled with wrapped gifts; a heart-shaped box stating "OVER 60 THEMED RAFFLE BASKETS"; a yellow box with the text "Bid on ticketed events & more at our Silent Auction!"; a blue speech bubble saying "I'll be there too!"; a snowflake with the text "Participate in the Snowflake Raffles & always receive a gift card in return!"; a wine glass being filled with red wine and the text "Win wine at the wine pull table!"; a stack of colorful gift cards; and a photo of Santa Claus sitting on a box.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Some celebrities do a lot to help out various causes that are meaningful to them. Sometimes they give of their time, talent, or treasure, while other times they create giving opportunities for the rest of us to be generous. The celebrity then does much to highlight the cause, and the hope is that enough people will give to make a difference.

I never judge another's motive when they choose to give to or support a cause. However, I hear many times a criticism levied against seemingly rich people who start a fundraiser and ask the rest of us to give: "Since they have so much money, they could simply give all the money needed themselves!" This exclamation often comes with disdain and a tone of superiority. This sentiment also comes frequently from those who have chosen to give little to nothing to the cause themselves.

Stewardship begins with the person in the mirror. You and I are accountable to each other, but at the end of the day, the only one who knows the true level of our generosity is God. As this Lent draws to a close, it is time to take a good long look in the mirror. You probably aren't famous, so there probably won't be a crowd of people to question the level of your sacrifice, devotion, and generosity this Lent. Of course, God knows and so does that person looking back at you in the mirror. -Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

READING I Zep 3:14-18a

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion! Sing joyfully, O Israel! Be glad and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has removed the judgment against you he has turned away your enemies; the King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst, you have no further misfortune to fear. On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged! The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior; he will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love, he will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel.

READING II Phil 4:4-7

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Lk 3:10-18

The crowds asked John the Baptist, "What should we do?" He said to them in reply, "Whoever has two cloaks should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized and they said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He answered them, "Stop collecting more than what is prescribed." Soldiers also asked him, "And what is it that we should do?" He told them, "Do not practice extortion, do not falsely accuse anyone, and be satisfied with your wages." Now the people were filled with expectation, and all were asking in their hearts whether John might be the Christ. John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fan is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." Exhorting them in many other ways, he preached good news to the people.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

December 12, 2021 3rd Sunday of Advent

"From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, good Lord, deliver us!" St. Teresa of Avila

We've all heard the adage, "Laughter is the best medicine." In many ways, it really is. When was the last time you really laughed? The gift of imagination allows us to see possible things that are yet to be. Imagine a world filled with laughter. We take life too seriously sometimes. Fear, uncertainty, pressure, negativity, disappointment, and myriad other human experiences can rob us of the joy needed for laughter. God never promised us an easy road, and we do have to take the course of our lives seriously. However, there is a balance to be sought and a possible joy that can be brought even to the darkest and most challenging of encounters.

St. Therese of Lisieux reminds us that, "Joy is not found in the material objects surrounding us but in the inner recesses of the soul. One can possess joy in a prison cell as well as in a palace." Falling in love with God, who is present in all of creation, allows us to bring a depth of understanding to everything we do and experience. We can more easily see above and beyond things while pursuing the only One who can truly satisfy our hearts. When we realize that God, the king of Israel, is in our midst and with us, there is no further misfortune to fear. We can celebrate the wonder and beauty of God's gift of joy. It is no wonder that many saints radiate joy and have no reservations expressing laughter. They are happy because they have found a pearl of great price.

We celebrate with joy today with hearts filled with expectation, wonder, awe, and beauty as we ready ourselves, even more excitedly, for the coming of our Savior. Do not fear and do not be discouraged. If you haven't laughed in a while, why? Something is preventing you from expressing the magnificence of your soul and the presence of God who dwells within. God's power and presence within us assures us that we are loved and kept in that presence. What more is really needed? Rejoice and laugh in the presence of God! It really is the best medicine and a most perfect way to convince others that God is really with us. "Go ahead, laugh! Live your life with joy and serve the Lord with laughter! Joy, with peace, is the sister of charity. Serve the Lord with laughter." (St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina)



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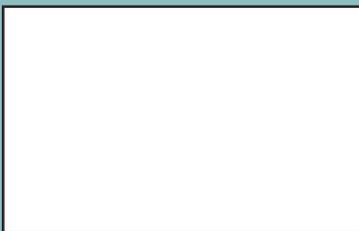


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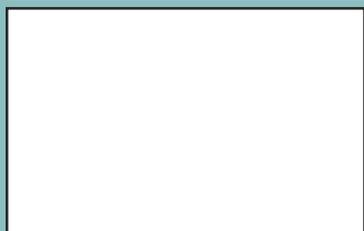
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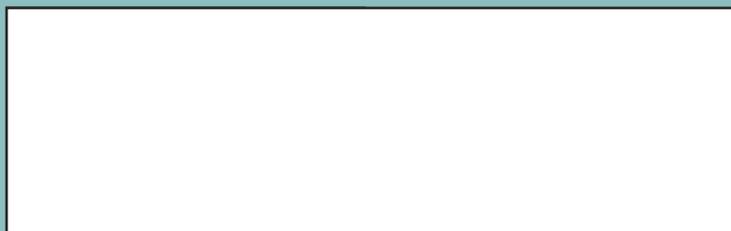
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