The Parishes of Holy Cross & Blessed Sacrament

Holy Cross Parish
200 Delaware Avenue
Olyphant, PA 18447

Phone: (570) 489-0752
Fax: (570) 489-0225
Website: www.holycrossblessedsacrament.org
email: sphg@verizon.net

Blessed Sacrament Parish
215 Rebecca Street
Throop, PA 18512

Phone: (570) 489-1963

Mission Statement

As baptized followers of Jesus Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, we strive to proclaim the Gospel by promoting a welcoming community; celebrating the Eucharist and living our faith with charity, peace and justice.

Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday
7:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Friday 7:30 am—12 Noon

Parish Staff

Pastor:
Monsignor Michael J. Delaney
Deacon John Musyt
* * Administrative Assistant **
Mrs. Judith Novak

Mr. Thomas Pearce — *** **Maintenance*****

Mrs. Mary Therese McKane — *** **Organist** *** — Mr. Ned Ructor

Religious Education

Deacon John Musyt — *** Director of Religious Education *** — Mrs. Karen Doyle

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Bonnie Poklemba

Catholic Schools

LaSalle Academy (570)489-2010 Fax (570)489-3887

Holy Cross High School (570)346-7541 Fax (570)348-1070

Baptisms

Parents anticipating the birth of their first child are required to attend baptismal instruction. Baptismal classes are held on the first Sunday of every month from 12:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m. We suggest that you attend this session before the birth of your child, if possible. Please contact the Parish Office to register. Note: Baptisms cannot be scheduled until all the necessary paperwork is completed.

Confirmation

Confirmation is administered every two years You must be enrolled and participating in the Religious Education Program for two years before they are eligible to receive the sacrament.

Marriages

Congratulations on your approaching marriage! In order to complete the necessary paperwork, couples are asked to contact the Parish Office at least 12 months in advance of the proposed marriage date.

Anointing of the Sick

Please contact the Parish Office whenever a member of your family has become sick or hospitalized. Please note, because of the government regulations regarding privacy, hospitals cannot release information without a patient's consent.

Monthly Visitation

Any parishioner who is homebound and wishes to receive the Eucharist on a monthly basis is asked to contact the Parish Office to schedule a visit.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA begins in October and prepares adults for reception into the Church at the Easter Vigil. The RCIA is for any adult non-Catholic who is interested in becoming Catholic and any adult who was baptized Catholic and did not receive Confirmation. For more information about the RCIA, please call Monsignor Delaney at the Parish Office or 489-0752.

Religious Education and Formation

Religious education is held for K thru 8th grade. Classes begin in September and conclude in May. Religious education begins with Mass and continues with formal instruction. Classes are held at Holy Cross Parish from 9:20 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Classes are held at Blessed Sacrament Parish from 10:30 a.m. until 11:45 a.m.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Penance is celebrated at the following times and also by appointment:

Saturdays	3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.	Holy Cross
	4:30 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.	Blessed Sacrament

Schedule of Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil	4:00 p.m.	Holy Cross
	5:30 p.m.	Blessed Sacrament
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Cross
	9:30 a.m.	Blessed Sacrament
	11:00 a.m.	Holy Cross

Date	Location		Intention	Requested
Monday 01/18	Holy Cross	8:00 AM	Stephen Kishel	Joan Chrzan
Tuesday 01/19	Blessed Sacrament	7:30 AM	Joseph Wallo	Blessed Sacrament's Holy Name Society
Wednesday 01/20	Holy Cross	8:00 AM	Vrabel & Kranick Families	Nancy
Thursday 01/21	Blessed Sacrament	7:30 AM	Sally Kolosinsky	Bob, Connie, and Family
Friday 01/22	Holy Cross	8:00 AM	Deceased Members of Anthony & Pearl Romeo Family	Family
Saturday 01/23	Holy Cross	4:00 PM	Helen Hvezda	Bill Nalevanko
	Blessed Sacrament	5:30 PM	John Paul Stoffey	Ann Marie & John Stoffey and Family
Sunday 01/24	Holy Cross	8:00 AM	Margaret "Marge" Ubaldini	Sonny & Sue Toth
	Blessed Sacrament	9:30 AM	Paul Eakins	John & Lorraine Stecco
	Holy Cross	11:00 AM	Jean & Bernie Kosydar	Bill & Kaitlyn Griggs

Memorial / Honor Candles

The sanctuary candle burning before the tabernacle has been donated this week as follows:

Holy Cross Parish – In Loving Memory of Lewicki Family, offered by Brian, Ann Marie, and Family.

LET ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM , O LORD:

Please remember in your prayers Robert A. Santarelli, John S. Kranick, and Manuel Guerrero Sablan.

May Perpetual Light Upon Him!

Blessed Sacrament	**01/10**	**$2,615.00**
	Christmas	**$7,557.00**
Holy Cross	**01/10**	**$5,392.00**
	Christmas	**$17,146.00**

MASS SCHEDULE

At this time, reservations are required for all weekend Masses.

You will be greeted upon entering each church and directed to where you will sit.

Please be in church 15 minutes before the beginning of Mass to receive instructions.

TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR MASS

Please call the rectory at:
570-489-0752
570-489-1963

PARISH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY JANUARY 18TH TO OBSERVE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Thank you for your understanding and patience in helping us to move forward. As always, your continued generosity and support of our parishes helps us to together continue to conduct our mission.

A special note of gratitude to those who have agreed to set-up, direct and sanitize our churches in preparation for worship.

United in the Love of Our God who reveals Himself to us as father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Sincerely,

Msgr. Michael J. Delaney

WE ARE STILL COLLECTING NONPERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS AND CLEANING SUPPLIES

Please place food/cleaning supplies on the porch (front or back) at Holy Cross/Blessed Sacrament Office, 200 Delaware Avenue, Olyphant.
Continued thanks for your donations.

Thank you to all those whose continuous financial and prayerful support permits us to continue our mission of sharing and bringing Good News to all.

WEEKEND MASSES ON FACEBOOK

Every Saturday at 5:30pm from Blessed Sacrament and every Sunday at 11:00am from Holy Cross will continue to be broadcasted Live on Facebook. Our Facebook name is The Parishes of Holy Cross & Blessed Sacrament.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT ALL THOSE WHO ADVERTISE IN OUR WEEKLY BULLETIN

THIS WEEK A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

KATRINA'S PIZZA & HOAGIE
813 Boulevard Ave.
Dickson City, PA 18519
570-489-8955

GUIDELINES FOR SAFELY RETURNING TO MASS

SAFETY MEASURES: * If you are feeling ill, stay at home. * We highly encourage those who are vulnerable (such as the elderly and people with underlying medical conditions) to continue to participate in Mass via parish livestreaming or CTV. * Mass from the Cathedral of St. Peter will continue to be broadcast daily on CTV. It is also available on the Diocese of Scranton website, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. * People should wash their hands thoroughly before coming to church.

FACE MASKS: * Face masks must be worn by all lay faithful who attend Mass. The only time a face mask may be removed is for the reception of Holy Communion. * Clergy are not to wear a face mask during the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy but must wear a face mask for the distribution of Holy Communion which takes place after Mass.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: * Mass attendance will be limited to no more than 25-percent of a church's seating capacity. * While within the church, all people need to maintain a safe social distance of six feet from others in all directions. The only exception is for immediate family members who may sit together. * Several pews may separate individuals/families to ensure the six foot distancing while within the church. * Parishioners will need to enter through only one designated door, follow social distancing guidelines during the line for communion, and exit the church through a separate door.

HOLY COMMUNION * The distribution of Holy Communion will take place after the conclusion of Mass. After receiving communion, the faithful are to depart and not return to their pews. * Distribution of the Precious Blood remains suspended at this time. * Parishioners are strongly advised to receive the Body of Christ in the hand. * Priests and deacons (or Any other minister) will wear a mask for the distribution of Holy Communion and are to use hand sanitizer before, immediately after, and if necessary, during the distribution of communion if contact is made with any person's hand or tongue.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sunday obligation to attend Mass remains suspended at this time.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AS WE MOVE FORWARD….

BAPTISMS - Please call the rectory to make arrangements.

OUR ADORATION CHAPEL - REMAINS CLOSED AT THIS TIME

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturday, January 23rd 1:00pm
Holy Cross Parish – Kelley Hall

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL
BOUND TOGETHER IN HOPE

Retired priests continue to be a vital part of our Diocese. Before the COVID pandemic they assisted by offering Mass and administering the sacraments. From the most senior to the newly ordained, our priests selflessly serve us. We now ask you to support them through the Diocesan Annual Appeal.
Support our Diocesan Ministries and Help Our Parish reach its Annual Appeal Goal
Mail your gift to:
Diocesan Annual Appeal
300 Wyoming Avenue
Scranton, PA 18503
or drop an Appeal gift in your parish collection. Your gift supports Catholic School Students, Parish Food Pantries, assists retired Priests who served generously, Seminarians answering God's call.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL
Lord, in this season of Advent, we thank you for abundant blessings of treasure and abilities. Give us generous hearts to joyfully share our gifts for those in need through the Diocesan Annual Appeal. We pray to the Lord..

OUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL
GOAL FOR 2020

Blessed Sacrament: $16,000.00
Holy Cross: $47,000.00

TO DATE:

Blessed Sacrament: $16,665.00
1.04 % of our goal has been reached
$665.00 over

Holy Cross: $33,178.00
71% of our goal has been reached
with $13,822.00 to go.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statements for the 2020 calendar year will be mailed in late January 2021 by request only. For tax purposes, donations for 2020 should have already been made. If you would like a tax statement, please call the parish office.

HOUSE BLESSING
FOR THE EPIPHANY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

Epiphany, also known as Twelfth Night, Theophany, or Three King Days, marks the occasion of a time-honored Christian tradition of "chalking the doors." The formula for the ritual – adapted for 2021- is simple: take chalk of any color and write the following above the entrance of your home:

20 + C + M + B +21

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi – Caspar, Malchior, and Balthazar – who came to visit Jesus in His first home. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat: "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the cross, and the "20" at the beginning and the "21" at the end mark the year. Taken together, this inscription is performed as a request for Christ to bless those homes so marked and that He stay with those who dwell therein throughout the entire year.

The chalking of the doors is a centuries-old practice throughout the world, through it appears to be somewhat less well-known in the United States. It is, however, an easy tradition to adopt, and a great practice whereby we dedicate our year to God from its very outset, asking His blessing on our homes and on all who live, work, or visit them there.

The timing for the chalking of the doors varies somewhat in practice. This prayer may be prayed on the traditional Feast of the Epiphany – the Twelfth Day of Christmas. Most often, the chalking takes place after Epiphany Mass, and can be done at any church, home, or dwelling.

CHALK AND PRAYERS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER MASS AS YOU EXIT CHURCH.

ANNUAL SUPER BOWL SUNDAY CHICKEN BAR-B-QUE

Sunday February 7th from 12pm – 3pm at Throop Hose Company No 1. – 512 Center St., Throop. BBQ is drive-thru take-out only, and there is a donation of $10 a ticket. For tickets, call Dave Benson at 570-383-1019.

ORDINARY TIME DURING WINTER

This year, there are only 5 Sundays of Ordinary Time between the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17th). In the cold and dark wintertime, the Eucharistic Liturgy, the Mass we share, is all the more important because it is where we are drawn into the "compelling love of Christ" who "sets us on fire." During Ordinary Time, we pray that God will "direct our actions" so that "we may abound in good works."

THEMES OF THE READINGS OF SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God's persistent invitation to us to 'Come and see.'

The mystery of God's love is its limitlessness; throughout human history, despite our rejection of God and obtuseness to his ways, God never ceases to call us back to him, to "come and see." Our God is a God of newness and beginnings, who constantly extends his grace to "start over" and begin again.

"Come and see" is both an invitation and a challenge. Jesus dares us, really, to *come* – to leave behind the things that deter us from God – and *see* – to focus not on what the world exalts as important but on the values of God.

To be disciples in our own time and place.

Henry West Beecher observed that "if a person cannot be a Christian in the place where they are, they cannot be a Christian anywhere." The challenge of the call to discipleship/prophecy (as Samuel hears in today's first reading and the disciples hear in the Gospel) is to discern and respond to that call within our own lives, in the context of our own experiences. Regardless of social standing or lifestyle, regardless of where we live, God calls every one of us to life in him. Whether we are creatures of Wall Street or denizens of Sing-Sing, we can make God's reign a reality in our own time and place through our faithfulness to the Gospel values of servanthood, reconciliation, justice and compassion.

MASS FOR LIFE

Friday, January 22nd is the Day of Prayer for the legal protection of unborn children. Please join us for mass as we pray to lift up, honor and validate the sanctity of life from the moment of conception.

Mass Times – 8am and 6:30pm
Both at Holy Cross Parish

If you are unable to join us at Holy Cross, there will be a mass broadcasted live from the Cathedral of Saint Peter at 12:10pm. It can be found on CTV and Diocesan Social Media.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Ecumenical Friend,

The theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which will take place from January 18th -25th, is "Abide in my love…you shall bear much fruit." (John,15).

This year, because of the pandemic, our commemoration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place in a slightly different manner. Our Ecumenical Service of Prayer to which you have been invited over the years will be conducted virtually. The Service will be broadcast on Tuesday, January 19th at 12:10pm. on Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton. At the same time, it will also be made available on the Diocese of Scranton website and through Diocesan social media platforms (Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and Instagram). The Reverend Russell McDougall, C.S.C., rector of the Holy Cross Community at King's College and former rector of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem will serve as homilist.

I invited you and the members of all your congregations to join with me during this time of prayer, reflections and praise.

With deep gratitude for your efforts to work for the unity that Christ desires every day, I am

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

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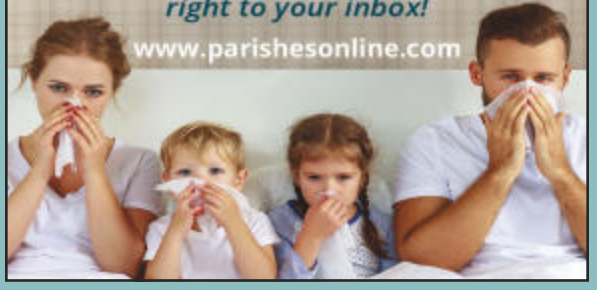

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