

April 11, 2021

Holy Cross Catholic Church

WELCOME! We are always happy to welcome new people into our Parish Family. If you are new to the parish, please call the Rectory to make an appointment. We want to know and serve you! We hope that you will favor our parish with your prayer, your presence, and your talents.

MISSION STATEMENT

Holy Cross Parish, located in the East Forest Park section of Springfield, was founded in 1949 by the Diocese and the people of Holy Name parish. We have from the beginning drawn strength from our church, school, and neighborhood. We, as a Spirit-filled, prayerful community of people of all ages, are challenged to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ by knowing, loving, and serving God and each other.

As Roman Catholics, we commit ourselves to grow through celebrating the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist, studying the Word, and supporting one another. We are called to reach out to all people, especially the poor and those in need, in a spirit of compassion and love.

SEE



"Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

JOHN 20:29

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCO.

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How good &
how pleasant it is,
when brothers dwell
together as one!

PSALM 133:1

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HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

221 Plumtree Road, Springfield, MA 01118-1502

Website: www.holycrossparish.org—Email: hcrectory@gmail.com

Office Hours - Closed until further notice

Telephone : (413)783-4111, Fax: (413)783-4112

We ask God to return to eternal life William Flanagan, Robert “Bobby” Connery, Maureen Julian, Richard “Dick” McBride, and our recently departed friends and relatives.

OPEN PANTRY This week we ask that you please bring **Spaghetti Sauce**. Next week we ask that you please bring **Peanut Butter**.

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ALL MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE CANCELLED EXCEPT FOR JUSTFAITH AND THE SANDWICH MINISTRY.

Sun., April 11 - Sandwich Ministry 11:50 a.m. in the gold room.

Tues., - April 13 - JustFaith 7:00 p.m. in the JustFaith room.

Sun., April 18 - Sandwich Ministry 11:50 a.m. in the gold room.

PARISH GIVING



The collection for March 28 was \$5,307. Thank you to all the people who have mailed, dropped off, or gone online for their contributions! Our budgeted weekly cost of operating the Parish is \$8,300. Thank you all for your continued financial support of our parish. God bless you and please stay safe!

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 11, 2021

- SUN 4/11** Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 [1]/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-3
- MON 4/12** Acts 4:23-31/Ps 2:1-3, 4-7a, 7b-9 [cf. 11d]/Jn 3:1-8
- TUES 4/13** Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5 [1a]/Jn 3:7b-15
- WED 4/14** Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [7a]/Jn 3:16-21
- THR 4/15** Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-20 [7a]/Jn 3:31-36
- FRI 4/16** Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 [cf. 4abc]/Jn 6:1-15
- SAT 4/17** Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 [22]/Jn 6:16-21
- SUN 4/18** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 [7a]/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

The Rectory Office is closed until further notice. Please call 783-4111 if you have any questions or concerns. The phones are checked daily for messages.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Eye Has Not Seen

They say seeing is believing. But if you’ve ever ordered a pair of pants online, you know that’s not always the case. Whatever the photos promise us, what looked like a perfectly nice shade of navy blue on our computer screens comes in the mail as an unusual shade of blue green that only appears in the giant box of Crayola crayons.

The Apostle Thomas, who couldn’t bring himself to accept that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing him, is such an utterly relatable figure in the Gospels. Thomas is still reeling from a loss — not only of his good friend but his Lord, who was taken prisoner and crucified before his eyes. Thomas is guarding himself. He’s not believing the hype. He’s going to be the only judge of what is real and what is fiction.

Would any of us be any different? We’ve all had those thoughts. Can we believe it all — Jesus, salvation history, the Eucharist — when we haven’t seen it with our own two eyes?

That’s when we need to remember that those two eyes were absolutely positive they had ordered a pair of navy blue pants.

It’s easy for us to sit back stroking our chins in judgment at Thomas, “you didn’t believe the testimony of your friends!” But do we accept the testimony of our friends? The saints, the popes, the Church fathers themselves?

Sometimes the things that are most worthy of believing can’t be seen with the naked eye.

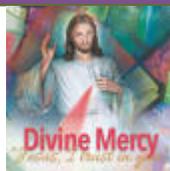
Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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DIVINE MERCY

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DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

This Sunday, April 11th, a Holy Hour will be celebrated from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the church. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed, along with Benediction.

Please join us!

SANDWICH MINISTRY

The remaining 2021 Sandwiches for the Homeless second collection dates are:

May 29/30, July 24/25, September 25/26, and December 25/26.

Communion Fasting

Question:

Do we need to fast for one hour before Mass, or one hour before communion?

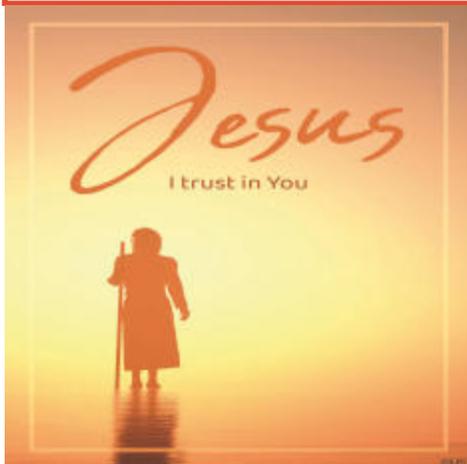
Answer:

The practice of fasting before receiving the Eucharist is a centuries-old act of devotion that was once very different than it is today. In the 1917 Code of Canon Law, for example, anyone who wanted to receive the Eucharist had to fast from midnight until the time of communion (even water and medications were forbidden). Over the following decades, the rules for the eucharistic fast were relaxed, first by Pope Pius XII and, later, by Pope Saint Paul VI.

The current Code of Canon Law (1983) states very clearly: "A person who is to receive the Most Holy Eucharist is to abstain for at least one hour before holy communion from any food and drink, except for only water and medicine" (Canon 919, §1). And, in the case of those who are ill and the elderly, the rules are even more accommodating, "The elderly, the infirm, and those who care for them can receive the Most Holy Eucharist even if they have eaten something within the preceding hour" (Canon 919, §3).

So, if we strictly follow the "letter of the law," the fast is calculated from the time of Holy Communion and not the start of Mass. However, when we remember why we fast — it is a reminder of the deeper hungers of the spirit that our physical thirst or hunger symbolize — we see that the issue is much bigger than simply fulfilling what is called for by Church Law and tradition. Joining fasting to our prayers and reflection before Mass is an opportunity to really center ourselves and to prepare our minds, hearts, and bodies to welcome the One we receive in the Eucharist.

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**FAITH
FORMATION**
372-6239

FAITH FORMATION

Classes for April are the 11th, 18th, and 25th. If your children do their lessons on Zoom, please continue to do so. If they do live classes, please continue to do so. Please be available to your children to help if they are on Zoom.

FIRST COMMUNION FAMILIES

The First Communion class for April is the 25th on Zoom from 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Please be available to help your children. Please have all materials ready to work with.

GRADE 10, PRE-CONFIRMATION

April 18, Chapters 9 and 10 are due.



Adult Catholic Bible Study:

Join us on Zoom for an 8 week study of the Gospel of John. We will use the Ascension Press program, Follow Me, which includes a workbook, video instruction featuring Edward Sri, and group discussion. All are welcome. We will meet from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Tuesdays from April 13 - June 8, with no meeting on May 11. (*An evening group may also be arranged if there is sufficient interest.*) Cost of materials: \$22. Contact Mary Hart, 413-455-4778, maryhart.avon@yahoo.com, for info or to register.

SouperBowl of Caring Collection

Thanks to your generosity, Holy Cross Parish collected \$657.00 on Super Bowl Sunday to help feed the hungry. This year donations will be made to the Open Pantry, the Rescue Mission, and Holy Cross Outreach to the Poor.

Thank you.

Attention Junior Girl Scouts:

Classes for the Catholic religious emblem program for Junior level Girl Scouts (grades 4-5) will be offered this spring. The "I Live My Faith" program enables girls to grow as Christians and to take their place as active members of their family, parish, troop, and community. The program will meet on five Sunday evenings and run April 25 - June 13, 2021. Location to be determined according to then-current COVID guidelines, with in-person gatherings being in the Holyoke/North Westfield area. For more information regarding this class or other Catholic religious emblems for all levels of Girl Scouts, please contact Patricia O'Connor at uconnorp1749@comcast.net.



Please keep the following service members, as well as all those affected by COVID-19 and those serving on the front line of this pandemic, in your prayers this week:

U.S. Air Force:

**Staff Sergeant Alexander Henle and
Staff Sergeant Samuel B. Park.**

U.S. Army:

**Second Lt. Alexander Nappi, OCS,
Chief Warrant Officer -4 Nicholas S.
Penna, and
Private First Class, Trevor Bajek**

U.S. Marine Corps:

**Lance Corporal Dominic Bushway,
Sergeant Christopher Bouchie,
Private Vincent Manning, and
Dakota Wood, Active Military.**

U.S. Navy:

**Sailor Austin Ray Allaire and Ensign
Joshua Lausier.**

U.S. A. Army Corps of Engineers

First Lt. Jonathan Edward Moll

If you have someone, family or friend, who is currently in the military, please call the rectory with the proper spelling of each person's name. As space allows in the bulletin, we will ask for prayers for those who are serving our country.

**GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF
SCRIPTURE**

April 11, 2021

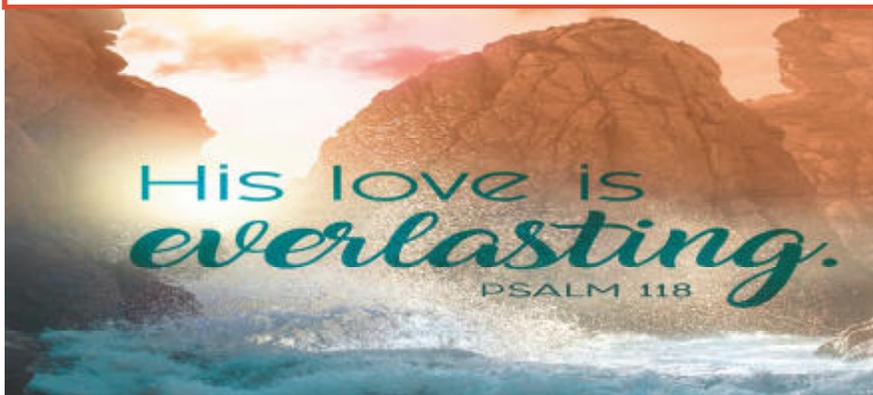
Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

What a wonderful joy fills us today as we ponder the inexhaustible mercy of God. "Mercy is the heart of God," Pope Francis tells us. The image of a heart has been used to point to the very life source of a person as it is the organ that allows life to flow through our veins and sustain us. Mercy is the heart of God. Imagine this dynamic, powerful, compassionate, piercing, embracing, loving, propelling, penetrating, absorbing, and enveloping, transforming presence of God flowing into the very depth of our souls. It is God's mercy that allows blood to flow through our veins. It is God's mercy that forms every atom of our being and leads us to what is true. God's mercy reveals all superficiality and falsehood, and lays bare all distortions, empty promises, weakness, and sin.

"Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instills in us the courage to look to the future with hope," Pope Francis continues. God's all forgiving, compassionate love is with us. When we finally believe and accept that Christ's resurrected transfigured presence resides with us, we then find within us a strong confidence to accept life's imperfections and disappointments and move on. Every day is a new adventure in new life. God leaves the past behind and opens doors to the future. It doesn't matter how many mistakes we made yesterday. All that matters is what we do tomorrow and what we learn along the way. It is so easy to remain tethered and mired in the past, but there is no need to do so. God is all about tomorrow and the work God has yet to do in our lives.

Mercy gives birth to hope. Hope for the greatest of sinners and hope for the worst of disasters. There is nothing God cannot do and nothing God cannot fashion. After all, everything we know and treasure was once nothing, and look what God did with the nothing God had! The resurrected Christ stands before us with nail marks in his wrists and wounds on his body as a testament that not even injustice, suffering and death can trample over and destroy God's mercy. What have we to fear? Why do we keep ourselves from peace? Our lack of faith prevents us from going forward and fully receiving the holiness God desires to breathe upon us. Breathe in God's mercy, allow the wind of God's presence to kiss all of your sins and caress all of your fears. Exhale peace.

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"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, so I send you." If you are considering a to be a priest, sister or brother who proclaims the truth and peace of Jesus Christ? Contact Fr. Jon Reardon @ 413-248-7034 / vocations@diospringfield.org

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, April 10th

+4:00 p.m. - Antoinette and Sevano Grimaldi, requested by their daughter, Josephina.

Sunday, April 11th

+8:30 a.m. - John Bordenuk, requested by his family.

+11:00 a.m. - Raymond Woods (21st Anniversary), requested by his family.

6:00 p.m. - The People of Holy Cross and St. Bartholomew.

Monday, April 12th

7:00 a.m. -

Tuesday, April 13th

7:00 a.m. -

Wednesday, April 14th

7:00 a.m. -

4:00 p.m. - Adoration, Benediction and Chaplets of the Unborn and Divine Mercy.

Thursday, April 15th

+7:00 a.m. - Roger and Isabelle Maurice, requested by Marie LaVallee.

Friday, April 16th

7:00 a.m. - No Mass.

Saturday, April 17th

+4:00 p.m. - Colombe Melchar, requested by his daughter, Michele.

Sunday, April 18th

8:30 a.m. -

+11:00 a.m. - Dominico and Maria Alfrone, requested by their daughter.

6:00 p.m. -

2nd SUNDAY OF EASTER

WELCOME TO TODAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE MASS.

Spencer LaVallee - ©2014 LPi



OR AS I LIKE TO THINK OF IT, "BRING YOUR PARISHIONERS TO WORK DAY."



The Pastoral Staff

Rev. Mr. John Miller (Deacon)
(Administrator)
372-6246, or ext 101

Rev. David Raymond
(Priest Minister)
372-6242

Rev. Robert Thrasher (Retired, in
residence)

Msgr. David George (Retired
Maronite Monsignor, in residence)

Msgr. Juan Garcia (Retired, in
residence)
ext. 147

Rev. Mr. William Toller (Deacon)
372-6237, or ext. 116

Sr. Cindy Matthews, OSF (Pastoral
Minister)
372-6241, or ext. 117

William Lucia (Director, Liturgical
Music)
372-6238, or ext. 146

Cathy Daniel (Director Faith
Formation and
Child Advocate)
372-6239, or ext. 121

Main Number
783-4111, ext. 100

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. and
6:00 p.m.

Daily Mass:
Monday to Thursday
7:00 a.m.

Holy Days
7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Confessions
Saturday 3:00 p.m. -
3:30 p.m. or by appt.

Devotions
Miraculous Medal Novena
Monday after 7:00 a.m. Mass

Adoration Wednesday
4:00-5:00 p.m.

Chaplet of Divine Mercy Wednesday
5:00 p.m.



Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturdays, 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., and by
appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage
The policy for the Diocese of Springfield
requires a period of preparation for the
Sacrament of Marriage, which includes
sessions with the Parish Priest and
participation at either the Pre-Cana
conferences or the Engaged Encounter
weekend. Please contact the Priest a
minimum of six (6) months prior to
setting any dates to allow adequate
preparation.

Pastoral Care
Arrangements for the reception of the
Sacraments at home can be made by
contacting the Rectory. Please also notify
the Rectory when a Parishioner is in the
hospital or otherwise confined. If you
have an emergency sick call, please call
the Rectory.

Sacrament of Baptism
Baptism is celebrated on the second
Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Expectant parents should call the Parish
office and speak with Deacon John Miller
to make arrangements.

Baptismal preparation takes place on the
first Wednesday of the month at 5:30
p.m. in the church.

Youth Faith Formation
Classes are held from September through
April.

PARISH GOALS and Objectives

Goal One

Create additional opportunities to build
community in our Parish, reaching out to
involve young adults, singles, families,
and seniors.

Goal Two

Increase the number of opportunities for
spiritual growth in our Parish.

Goal Three

Provide support and outreach to families
and individuals in need.



Administration and Finance
Richard Allen734-6292

Altar Servers
Maureen Garner.....783-6428

Athletic Association
Connie Begley.....262-2241

Cursillo
Deacon Bill Toller.....372-6237

Eucharistic Ministers
Maureen Garner.....783-6428

Family Life
Patty Ferrarini.....782-3509

Greeters
Jim Maiolo.....374-1548

JustFaith
Deacon Bill Toller.....372-6237

Knights of Columbus
Bob Bys.....563-1147
holycrosskofc15864.groupsaces.com

Lectors
Mary Hosmer.....537-7979

Liturgical Environment
Bob Tyer.....782-6017

Outreach to the Poor
Ellen Angeli.....204-8562

Pastoral Council
Pat Pearson.....782-2033

Parish Nursing
Sr. Cindy.....372-6241

Prayer Line
Sue Callahan.....796-1950

RCIA
Rectory.....783-4111

Single Parent Support Group
Sr. Cindy.....372-6241

Sister Parish
Deacon Kevin McCarthy374-3861

Spiritual Life
Deacon John Miller.....782-4602

Take & Eat (Senior Meals)
Jan Denney426-8248

Ushers
Frank Ryan.....782-5730



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Your Ward 7 City Councilor
Tim Allen

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