

Holy Cross Catholic Community

Pastor, Father Jose Issac

Deacon Joe Haggarty

Deacon Herbert Melendez

Address | 5650 Vista Boulevard, Sparks NV 89436

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Parish Email | hccchurch@sbcglobal.net

Website | www.HolyCrossSparks.com

December 3, 2023



1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” Mk 13:33

“Velen y esten preparados, porque no saben cuando llegara el momento.” Mc 13:33

December 10, 2023



2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Prepare the way of the Lord.” Mk 1:3

“Preparen el camino del Senor, enderecen sus senderos” Mc 1:3

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil | 5 pm Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am, 4:30pm (English) 12:15pm (Spanish)

Daily Mass | Tuesday—Friday 12:00pm Noon Reconciliation | Saturday 4:00pm

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday:
9:00am to 5:30pm

Lunch 12:30 to 1:00pm

Saturdays: 9:00am–5:00pm

Sundays: 9:00am–5:00pm

Office Closed Fridays

Parish Staff

Parish Secretary:
Elizabeth Martinez

Associate Assistants:
Yenica Carrillo
Dulce Infante

Building & Grounds:
Randy Roberts

Janitorial Services:
Eduardo Chavez

Event Spotlight: Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta

The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is one that is vastly celebrated throughout the Americas. Each year, the Hispanic community takes on the great, but joyous task of organizing a grand celebration to pay homage to our Mother Mary. We are delighted to be able to have various activities leading up to her feast day, beginning with a Novena for her from December 3, Las Manaitas on December 11, and her grand fiesta on December 12. We invite all to come and join us—more details on the event on page 4.

La fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es una que se celebra ampliamente en todo el continente americano. Cada año, la comunidad hispana asume la grande, pero gozosa tarea de organizar una gran celebración para rendir homenaje a nuestra Madre María. Estamos encantados de poder tener varias actividades previas al día de su fiesta, comenzando con una Novena para ella desde el 3 de diciembre, Las Manaitas el 11 de diciembre y su gran fiesta el 12 de diciembre. Invitamos a todos a que vengan y se unan a nosotros, más detalles sobre el evento en la página 4.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- For your safety, when exiting the parking lot, please consider turning right & going towards Raley's. Use the stoplight to turn left and go to the roundabout. This will save you time, is safer & eases up the traffic at the entrance of Holy Cross.
- When writing a check for Holy Cross, whether it be for Sunday offering, CSA, WTSA, Second Collections, etc. Please make the check payable to Holy Cross Catholic Community and in the memo line note the intended purpose.
- Fr. Jose will NEVER email or text Parishioners asking for money, please note these are scams— do not reply or give funds, all requests from donation will be from the pulpit, the bulletin, or a mailing from the Parish office.

The Parish office needs your help to identify a few missing names on donation envelopes, if your family uses any of the following donation envelope numbers please stop by the Parish office to update your families information;



- 124	- 161
- 197	- 222
- 365	- 409

GOOD TO KNOW....

- ♦ The local hospitals in town have a priest that is available to visit you or family members that are ill and in the hospital.
- ♦ At Renown Regional Medical Center & the VA Hospital, Fr. Joseph Infante is able to be contacted by the hospital's staff to visit you.
- ♦ At St. Mary's Hospital, Fr. Conrado Lomibao is the chaplain available to all who are admitted to the hospital— Fr. Conrado can be contacted by the nursing staff for a visit.



Upcoming Events

December

Sat & Sun 2/3 Holy Land Religious Articles Sale
 Mon 11 Mananitas for Our Lady of Guadalupe 10pm
 Tues 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Fiesta
 Sat 16 "La Eucharistia" Hispanic Community Retreat
 Sun 17 Fr. Norm King - 35'th Ordination Anniversary
 Sat 30 Fr. Jose Issac's 48th Ordination Anniversary

There will be Family Catechesis class schedule:

Family Catechesis; Come & See

December 3, 10 & 17

Family Catechesis : Mondays

December 14, 11 & 18

Family Catechesis; Confirmation

December 6 & 20

OCIA (RCIA)

December 7, 14 & 21

All Family Catechesis Programs will be on break for Christmas beginning Sunday December 24th, All Programs will resume from Sunday January 7th.



Upcoming Feasts to Remember

December

12/6 St. Nicolas, Bishop
 12/8 Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 12/9 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin
 12/12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
 12/14 St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church



Nursing Home Angel Tree

As a reminder, any parishioners that have taken a tag from the angel tree for nursing home residents, please bring back the gift by Wednesday December 6th so that we can have adequate time to sort them out by nursing home and have the items delivered in a timely manner. Thank you for helping to make others Christmas, a special time as well.



We're Hiring

Holy Cross Catholic Community is looking to fill a full-time building & Grounds/Janitorial position.

Are you good with landscaping, know your way around a tool-box, and looking to put your talents and gifts to good use? If so, please submit your resume to the Parish office.

Pay is negotiable and will rely on experience. This position is full-time, with medical & dental benefits.



Sunday, December 3

- 8:00am** Parish Family
10:00am Jose Jordana† by Chinita Escudero
12:15pm Edlyn Ortiz S. I. by Sandra Ortiz
4:30pm Antonio Luis Saldana†
 by Saldana-Leon Family

Tues., December 5

- 12:00pm** Ivan Vasquez† by Family

Weds., December 6

- 12:00pm** Maria De Lourdes Rios Cruz†
 by Family

Thurs., December 7

- 12:00pm** Carla Martinez† Orlando Martinez†
 by Family

Friday, December 8

- 12:00pm** Arturo Flores Espinosa† by Family

Sat., December 9

- 5:00pm** Jacob Roberts†
 by Randy & Susie Roberts

Sunday, December 10

- 8:00am** Paul Rupf† by Bonnie Miller
10:00am Parish Family
12:15pm Santos Martinez Trejo† and
 Natalia Trejo† by Family
4:30pm Myrna Orpiada† by Family

Tues., December 12

- 12:00pm** Lillian Puccatti† by Family
6:00pm Lupita Flores† by Family

Weds., December 13

- 12:00pm** Chief Sam Okorie† by Okorie Family

Thursday, December 14

- 12:00pm** Rosa Rangel Lopez† by Family

Friday, December 15

- 12:00pm** Jacob Roberts† & Harry Loranger S.I.
 by Roberts & Loranger Families

Saturday, December 15

- 5:00pm** Jacob Roberts† & Harry Loranger S.I.
 by Roberts & Loranger Families



LITURGICAL TEAM

Team for December 9 & 10

**Saturday, December 9
5:00pm**

L: Lauren Frybarger, Kris Dondero **EM:** Vilia Natchez, Tom Tighe, John Kadlic, Bob Bertschinger
G: Frybarger Family

**Sunday, December 10
8:00am**

L: Ophelia Wilson, Gwen Flores **EM:** John Bell, Gretchen Oney, Cathie Bundesen, Irma Knapp
G: Rita Rollings

10:00am

L: Barbara Beverly, Terry Jenkins **EM:** Mae Doreza, Yunuhen Espinosa, Isabella McCloskey, Linda Navarrete **G:** Sanchez Family

12:15 pm

L: Gustavo Gonzalez, Mary Guerrero **ME:** Sandra Ortiz, Bertha Alvarez, Manuel Alvarez
B: Luisangela Guerra

4:30pm

L: Kathleen Fralick, Doug Parry **EM:** Noreen Parry, Bob Daly, Susan Daly, Gene Seidlitz
G: Hoven Family

Team for December 16 & 17

**Saturday, December 16
5:00pm**

L: Teresa Tighe, Carol Brown **EM:** Risa Ronan, Tom Tighe, Jane Burke
G: Teri Rogers

**Sunday, December 17
8:00am**

L: John Bell, Rita Rollings **EM:** Veronica Alimurung, Kris Evans, Allegra Welton, Deacon Herbert
G: De La Torre Family

10:00am

L: Tony Pagano, Briana Esquivel **EM:** Terry Jenkins, Maricela Lopez, Deacon Herbert
G: Joana Escobar

12:15pm

L: Maria Villanueva, Xavier Villanueva
ME: Lucila Martinez, Arnoldo Olivares, Cecilio Urias **B:** Maricela Torres

4:30pm

L: Dave Joyce, Nathan Carpenter **EM:** Leo Humphreys, Sarah Naegele, Annette Granberg, Marlene Humphreys **G:** Barlett Family



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgical team sign-up sheets are in the gathering space. If you are planning to attend a certain Mass time and are able to be a lector, eucharistic minister, altar server, greeter, usher or your family can present the gifts, please sign up!



**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
CELEBRATION
EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
CELEBRACION DE LA VIRGEN
DE GUADALUPE
¡TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!**

NOVENA

December 3rd to December 11th, 2023
at 7:00pm in the Prayer Garden

NOVENARIO

3 de diciembre a 11 de diciembre del 2023
a las 7:00pm en el jardin de oración

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023
LUNES 11 DE DICIEMBRE DEL 2023**

10:00pm Rosary / Rosario
10:40pm Youth Danza (Dance) / Danza de los jóvenes
11:00pm Danza Azteca (Dance)
12:00am Mañanitas

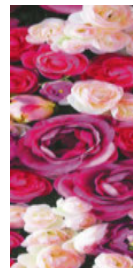
**There will be refreshments: hot chocolate,
hot punch, coffee, sweet bread and cookies!**

**Habr  bocadillos, ligeros: champurrado,
ponche, caf , pan dulce y galletas!**



**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023
MARTES 12 DE DICIEMBRE DEL 2023**

5:30pm Children's Danza (Dance) / Danza de los Ni os
6:00pm Bilingual Mass / Misa Biling e
7:00pm Danza Azteca Guadalupe a (Dance)
7:30pm Dinner, Music and Children's Dance
Cena, M sica y Danza de los Ni os



Posadas

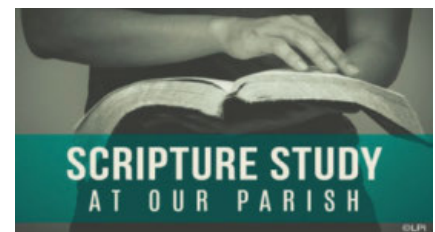
We invite you to join us for the posadas— from Thursday, December 14th to Friday, December 22nd at 7:00pm each day. "Las Posadas" are a beautiful tradition that celebrates the 9 days before Christmas. The Posadas attempt to represent or relive Mary and Joseph's pilgrimage to Bethlehem as they try to find a place to stay, with a celebration at the end when they finally find their lodging and Jesus is born.

Te invitamos a unirte a nosotros en las posadas, del jueves 14 de diciembre al viernes, 22 de diciembre a las 7:00 p.m. todos los d as. "Las Posadas" son una hermosa tradici n que celebra los 9 d as antes de la Navidad. Los Posada intentan representar o revivir la peregrinaci n de Mar a y Jos  a Bel n mientras tratan de encontrar un lugar para quedarse, con una celebraci n al final cuando finalmente encuentran su alojamiento y nace Jes s.



**Prayer
REQUESTS**

Joshua Alarcon	Rosario Lund
Sandra Askins	Judy Medek
Scott Anderson	Joyce Montgomery
Consuelo Barboza	Majorie Ann Myers
Nicholas Bushgens	Shawnee McGraw
Richard Chase	Lori O'Connor
Benjamin Chavez	Alejandra Ortiz
Jackie DaMichele	Alan Ortiz
Sandi DaSilveora	Edlyn Ortiz
Patsy Dearing	Bob Patterson
Heather Deason	Berta Perez
Jim Ellis	Remi Plummer
Mercy Escobar	Travis Porter
Jeannette Franklin	Steve Podhurst
Susan Fanchar	Becky Prevost
Edward Fulton	Maria Rodriguez
Mary Gardenas	Sam Salisbury
Rosemary Geis	Rene Salomon
Mauricio Guillen	Erick Smith
Dan Gustafson	Nanette Smith
Katie Histing	Carey Snyder
Jeanette Jesch	Brianna Stuart
Kenneth Jones	Vincent Stuart
Richard Kihs	Angela Teague
Jennifer Krush	Isaac Vargas
Richard Kunold	James Vonderhaar
Sebastian Laird	Bill Wehinger
Maria Larsen	Bob Wolf
Desiree Lintz	Sean Wolff
Zachary Lintz	Steve Woods
Rebekah Lucey	



**New Scripture Class to begin
on January 4th 2024.**

On Dec. 14th a brief Scripture overview and picking which Book of Scripture to begin with.

All adults are welcome. Teacher is John Bell, Holy Cross parishioner since 1988. If interested come to find out more and ask questions on Thursday Dec.14 at 7pm. Bring a Catholic Bible.

2023 Year-End Campaign

Dear Friends in Christ,

Prayerful greetings to you from Holy Cross Catholic Community. Hope and pray that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy, and doing well. Please be assured of my humble prayers.

Let me begin by saying how grateful I am for the blessing of Holy Cross Catholic Community. I have watched it for the last 15 years, growing and becoming a 'Sacrament of Jesus' kind and compassionate presence. I am thankful.

The year 2023 has been one of many great Blessings to us. Requests for sacramental and pastoral services are unending. A well-organized faith formation for children, youth and parents has become a great Testimony of Commitment. C.S.A. 2023 (Bishop's Appeal) goal was met. Mass attendance and Sacrificial giving are on the increase. Ministry of the ordained has grown with the addition of Rev. Herbert Melendez, Rev. Joe Haggarty, and Rev. Fr. Norm King.

On October 31, 2023, Holy Cross Catholic Community has started "Fr. George Wolf Memorial Scholarship Fund" with an initial deposit of \$300,000.00 with the Catholic Community Foundation of the Diocese of Reno. I ask you to keep Fr. George Wolf in your prayers.

In conclusion, I thank you all for your generous participation and prayerful support. I pray psalm 116: "What shall I return to the Lord, for all his bounty to me... I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people." I ask all parishioners to make a gift to our **2023 Year-End Campaign** – payable to **Holy Cross Catholic Community**. You may mark your gift towards **Christmas offering, Pastor's Charity** or **"Fr. George Wolf Memorial Scholarship"**. Thank you and best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Advent. With love and prayers,

Fr. Jose Issac
Pastor

Dear Liturgical Ministers,

Wish you a very fruitful season of advent. Hope and pray that you and your loved ones are doing well.

I am writing this letter to humbly ask you to read the "Liturgical Ministers Guidelines" I have prepared them after deep study, reflection and very careful observation. They are not new! They have been discussed in the Training sessions.

These guidelines are important and urgent. Holy Cross Catholic Community is growing. Many new parishioners are joining the Community. Many more are returning to the Catholic faith after having been away for years.

The liturgical ministers are our front-line leaders. They are the face of Holy Cross Catholic Community. So, it is important to present a united and welcoming face at all times, especially during the Liturgical Celebrations.

Thank you for being a leader! Your gift of time and talent are well appreciated. May Jesus continue to Bless you and reward you. Please be assured of my prayers.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Jose Issac
Pastor



- Thank you to the Community for the food donations and their time to be able to make the Tom Sawyer Thanksgiving Lunch a success. We had over 45 children, youth and adults helping to make everything run smoothly.

- A great thank you to Erika Gayette, Yunuhen Espinosa, Adriana Chagolla, and Debbie Schiwart who stepped up at the last minute to help cook the final turkeys needed for the Tom Sawyer Luncheon. To parishioner Joe Saiz who donated the turkeys.

- Thank you to the confirmation families as well as all the Parishioners who showed up to help to change the liturgical environment. This is a great task and time after time they are able to keep the environment looking refreshing and beautiful!

- To the children's liturgical team, that have taken on the exciting roll of helping lead children's liturgy during the 10am & 12:15pm Masses. Veronica Mendoza, Miriam Garcia, Jennifer Avina, Veronica Alarcon, David Alvarez, Brisa Rodriguez Duenez and all the youth helpers as well.

December 3, 2023
1st Sunday of Advent

GOSPEL MEDITATION

Lately I've been listening to a science-based podcast on healthy daily living. The host frequently discusses the wide range of health benefits of sleep. So, each night I'm trying to get more, and better, slumber, and it's helping me feel energized. So, why in the world should we follow Christ's advice this week? "Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house will come ... lest he find you asleep." Isn't sleep, especially at midnight and cockcrow, a good thing?

Of course, it is. But the wakefulness the Lord calls us to is a deep, personal orientation to Him. A nightly vigil is therefore a metaphor for this, but it's not just that. We should give up real sleep in order to pray, too. This difficult practice is a time-tested way to foster wakefulness of heart. When we give up sleep to pray, it focuses us. We learn that life is not an endless series of days. You and I belong to the Lord — awake or asleep, in life and in death. Sooner or later, even our need for our physical sleep will pass away. And our attentiveness to God — that is, whether we are awaiting Him to meet us — will be all that matters.

May I challenge us this week and this Advent to intentionally give up at least one hour of sleep each week for prayer? Stay up later, wake up in the middle of the night, or an hour earlier, and pray. Will we be a bit more tired the next day? Yes. But we'll be amazed at the spiritual wakefulness that results, too.

Father John Muir ©LPi

December 10, 2023
2nd Sunday of Advent

GOSPEL MEDITATION

We like to think we are totally free, but the bitter truth is we simply are not. Or better put, our freedom is limited on every side — by governments, corporate giants, physical and mental frailties, genetic shortcomings, and even the boundaries of time and space, and above all, the burden of our sins and pending deaths. In our day, we are perhaps particularly aware that we are not free to disconnect from the technocratic rulers of the air. If you doubt me, try not paying your internet bill and see what happens. We are not totally free.

It's nothing new, of course. In Jesus' day, everyone felt the crushing weight of the Roman Empire. You can say you're free all you want. But try not paying your taxes to Rome and see what happens.

Once we feel this burden in our own lives — however it comes — we are ready to hear the stunning announcement that commences Mark's gospel, "The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." It's not a simple perfunctory introduction, but a dramatic announcement of new freedom. The word "gospel" was a political, even military, term. It meant: a great victory has been won and a new king is in charge. This Jesus — not the Roman emperor — is God's son, and he has defeated all that crushes human freedom. It's time to follow him and be truly free. This week let's refuse to submit our freedom to false rulers — especially that of sin. And let's rejoice that Christ is coming to make us perfectly free from all our oppressors.

Father John Muir ©LPi

Eucharistic Prayer #3 – Sanctus

"And they (the seraphim) were calling to one another: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.' At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke." - Isaiah 6:2-4

The 'Sanctus' is a profound moment in the Mass, in which we come to recognize that we are entering into Heaven. As such, we quote two very important passages of the Bible. The first is the acclamation of the angels praising God before the throne of grace. As such, we become cognizant that we are entering into something transcendent, joining our voices to those of angels. The second is the proclamation of blessing to him "who comes in the name of the Lord" (c.f. Psalm 118:26) which was said by the crowds as Christ entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. This is the same crowd who five days later would call out to have Christ crucified. And this is something powerful to meditate on—that though we sing with the angels, we cannot ignore the ever present temptation to abandon the Lord when the crowds turn against Him.

What preparations do you make to enter into the presence of the Lord?

The Sanctus is often sung. Do you have a favorite version of the Sanctus?



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QUESTIONS? Contact the parish office at 775-358-2544

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4. Support our parish consistently, even if you are unable to attend Mass.
5. Give on-the-go! Access the site from your mobile phone or tablet.



Weekly Offering November 12, 2023

Sunday Offering	\$	5,636.88
All Saints	\$	10.00
Propagation of the Faith	\$	5.00
CSA 2023	\$	60.00
Gift Cabinet (Women's Group)	\$	40.00
Fr. George Wolf Memorial Sch.	\$	155.00
Votive Candles	\$	131.00
WTSA Event	\$	21,672.01
All Souls	\$	20.00
Campaign: Human Development	\$	1.00
Mass Intentions	\$	850.00
Total	\$	28,655.89



Holy Land Religious Articles December 2 & 3, 2023

A group from Bethlehem will be here selling Olive Wood religious articles on behalf of the Catholic families in Bethlehem & Jerusalem. The Catholic people in the Holy Land depend mainly on Olive Wood crafting for their living. In the past, they used to sell their products to the pilgrims who visit the Holy Land. Currently, these families are facing an economic hardship, as there are very few tourists go there because of the political conflict & the concrete wall that separates between Bethlehem & Jerusalem. Proceeds will be used to help and support these families especially in these time of war in Israel.

Un grupo de Belén estará aquí el 2 y 3 de diciembre, vendiendo artículos religiosos de Madera de Olivo en nombre de las familias católicas en Belén y Jerusalén. El pueblo católico en Tierra Santa depende principalmente de la elaboración de madera de olivo para su vida. En el pasado, solían vender sus productos a los peregrinos que visitan Tierra Santa. Actualmente, estas familias se enfrentan a una dificultad económica, ya que hay muy pocos turistas que van allí debido al conflicto político y al muro de concreto que separa Belén y Jerusalén. Las ventas se utilizarán para ayudar y apoyar a estas familias especialmente en este tiempo de guerra en Israel.

Weekly Offering November 19, 2023

Sunday Offering	\$	6,677.25
All Saints	\$	30.00
Capital Campaign for Human Development	\$	1,903.70
CSA Rebate 2023	\$	9,022.50
Fr. George Wolf Memorial Scholarship Fund	\$	150.00
Women's Gift Cabinet	\$	111.00
Tamale Sale	\$	1,163.00
Guadalupano Group—Raffle	\$	416.00
WTSA	\$	1,219.00
All Souls	\$	120.00
Mass Intentions	\$	2,005.00
Total	\$	22,817.45

Parish Registration Form

Names of your Family Members: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Alt Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Preferred Mass Time: _____ Contribution envelopes: _____ or Online Giving: _____

Ministry you/your family would like to be involved in: _____

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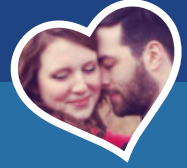
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