

Holy Cross

A COMMUNITY CALLED TO BE A WITNESS TO THE GLORIOUS VICTORY OF THE CROSS

WELCOME

CONTACT US

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Very Rev. Fr. Emery Longanga, PhD, VF Pastor Rev. Fr. Jesus Martinez Parochial Vicar Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler Permanent Deacon

WELCOME MESSAGE

We the welcoming family of Holy Cross are delighted to have you join our parish family. Whether you are new to the area, seeking a new parish home, or returning to the practice of your Catholic faith, we hope you come and spend some time with us at Mass and in prayer and adoration. We seek to offer as many opportunities as possible for parishioners to come together as a family of faith. We pray that you may find warmth and spiritual growth here at Holy Cross!



THE HOLY FAMILY

Gie

He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

Entonces volvió con ellos a Nazaret y siguió sujeto a su autoridad. Su madre conservaba en su corazón todas aquellas cosas. Jesús iba creciendo en saber, en estatura y en el favor de Dios y de los hombres. - Lc 2, 51-52

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

Lectionario II © 1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Liturgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano

OLP

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

DEAR FRIENDS,

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone" (Is 9:1).

It is with these words from the prophet Isaiah that I would like to address this message of the Joy of Christmas to all of you. This joy stems from the fact that while we were still sinners, God has decided to send His Only Son to save us. Christmas is therefore, the celebration of the joy of our salvation, God's free salvation offered to anyone who would accept Him. But this joy is void when we celebrate it alone or in solitary. That is why Christmas is called a Family time and a Family celebration.

We here at Holy Cross make that family of God where all are meant to feel welcomed and embraced. Our faith makes us sharers in the salvation and the kingdom Jesus is bringing and offering to us. Thus, in the spirit of Christmas, I would like to wish you all Merry Christmas! May the blessings of the Divine Child of Bethlehem fill your homes and surround you and all your loved ones.

If you are visiting us today, I would like to welcome you here in Holy Cross. We love you and we thank you for choosing Holy Cross as your family where to celebrate the Joy of our salvation. Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

If you have been away from the Church, I would like to let you know that we love you and we welcome you back home. May the Joy of this holy Christmas fill your heart today and always. Merry Christmas and many blessings to you.

To those who still bear and carry the pain of a loss of a loved one, illness, family division or separation, please find here our expression of support in Jesus Christ who comes to console and comfort us. May the Prince of Peace bring you consolation and comfort. Merry Christ in the Peace of the Lord.

To everyone and all of you, I wish a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

Fr. Emery

QUERIDOS AMIGOS,

"El pueblo que andaba en tinieblas vio una gran luz; sobre los moradores de la tierra de las tinieblas ha resplandecido una luz "(Is 9, 1).

Es con estas palabras del profeta Isaías que me gustaría dirigir este mensaje de la Alegría de la Navidad a todos ustedes. Este gozo proviene del hecho de que cuando todavía éramos pecadores, Dios decidió enviar a su Hijo Unigénito para salvarnos. La Navidad es, por tanto, la celebración del gozo de nuestra salvación, la salvación gratuita de Dios ofrecida a todo aquel que lo acepte. Pero esta alegría es nula cuando la celebramos solos o en soledad. Es por eso que la Navidad se llama tiempo familiar y celebración familiar.

Aquí en Holy Cross hacemos esa familia de Dios donde todos debemos sentirse bienvenidos y abrazados. Nuestra fe nos hace partícipes de la salvación y el reino que Jesús nos trae y ofrece. Por lo tanto, en el espíritu de la Navidad, me gustaría desearles a todos ¡Feliz Navidad! Que las bendiciones del Divino Niño de Belén llenen sus hogares y los rodeen a ustedes y a todos sus seres queridos.

Si nos visita hoy, me gustaría darle la bienvenida aquí en Holy Cross. Te amamos y te agradecemos por elegir a Santa Cruz como tu familia donde celebrar la Alegría de nuestra salvación. Feliz Navidad para ti y tus seres queridos.

Si ha estado lejos de la Iglesia, me gustaría hacerle saber que lo amamos y le damos la bienvenida a su hogar. Que la Alegría de esta santa Navidad llene tu corazón hoy y siempre. Feliz Navidad y muchas bendiciones para ti.

Para aquellos que todavía soportan y llevan el dolor de la pérdida de un ser querido, enfermedad, división familiar o separación, por favor encuentren aquí nuestra expresión de apoyo en Jesucristo que viene a consolarnos y consolarnos. Que el Príncipe de la Paz les traiga consuelo y consuelo. Feliz Cristo en la Paz del Señor.

A todos y a todos ustedes, les deseo una Feliz y Bendita Navidad.

P. Emery

READINGS

FIRST READING SIR 3:2-6, 12-14

God sets a father in honor over his children; a mother's authority he confirms over her sons. Whoever honors his father atones for sins, and preserves himself from them. When he prays, he is heard; he stores up riches who reveres his mother. Whoever honors his father is gladdened by children, and, when he prays, is heard. Whoever reveres his father will live a long life; he who obeys his father brings comfort to his mother. My son, take care of your father when he is old; grieve him not as long as he lives. Even if his mind fail, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten, firmly planted against the debt of your sins —a house raised in justice to you.

SECOND READING COL 3:12-21

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Wives, be subordinate to your husbands, as is proper in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and avoid any bitterness toward them. Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, so they may not become discouraged.

GOSPEL LK 2:41-52

Each year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man.

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, TUE, THURS & FRI

8:00 am & 12:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

8:00 am & 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm (Spanish)

SATURDAY

8:00 am & 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm (French)

SUNDAY

8:00 & 10:00 am, 12:30 pm (Spanish)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Wednesday & First Friday 8:30 - 11:30 am

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

First Friday 12:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday 3:00-3:45 pm, Sunday 11:30 am-12:15 pm

MASS INTENTIONS

SAT, DEC 25

8:00 am 10:00 am 12:30 pm

SUN, DEC 26

8:00 am 10:00 am 12:30 pm

MON, DEC 27

8:00 am 12:00 pm

TUES, DEC 28

8:00 am 12:00 pm

WED, DEC 29

8:00 am 12:00 pm † 7:00 pm

THURS, DEC 30

8:00 am 12:00 pm

FRI, DEC 31

8:00 am † 12:00 pm 4:00 pm † 12:00 am

SAT, JAN 1

8:00 am † 10:00 am † 12:30 pm † 4:00 pm 6:00 pm

SUN, JAN 2

8:00 am † 10:00 am 12:30 pm †

IS 9:1-6/TI 2:11-14/LK 2:1-14

Holy Cross Parishioners Holy Cross Parishioners Holy Cross Parishioners

SIR 3:2-6, 12-14/COL 3:12-21/LK 2:41-52

Ursula Klara Pospula Holy Cross Parishioners Sandra Patricia Vasquez

1JN 1:1-4/JN 20:1A, 2-8

Bastow Grandchildren
Liv & dec Honti & Kapuy Families

1 JN 1:5-2:2/MT 2:13-18

Todd Osimo Sean Bastow

1 JN 2:3-11/LK 2:22-35

Vocations Conchita Cover Jonathan Banuelos Espino

1 JN 2:12-17/LK 2:36-40

Marge Telscher Jay & Emily Roberts

1 JN 2:18-21/JN 1:1-18

Michael McAndrews Nicholas McKenna Richard & Francine Harris Holy Cross Parishioners

NM 6:22-27/GAL 4:4-7/LK 2:16-21

Joseph LaRuffa Fr. Emery Longanga Aureliano Blass Liv & dec mem Hill Family All third order Franciscans

IS 60:1-6/EPH 3:2-3A, 5-6/MT 2:1-12

Rita Drinan

Holy Cross Parishioners Alfonso Franco Cabrales

PARISH NEWS

BINGO

No BINGO December 27.

Please join us for Monday evening BINGO! Doors open at 4pm. First games start at 5:45pm. Bring a friend or two! \$12 to start. Three jackpots. Hotdogs, snacks, pastries, and drinks for sale. A big thank you to all of our generous volunteers!

NEW YEAR'S EXPOSITION AND MASS

Please join us for a special holy hour on New Year's eve at 11pm, followed by Mass at midnight to ask for God's blessings for the new year. We hope to see you there!

NEW BOOK STUDY

Our next book study will begin Thursday, January 6, from 10-11am in the small hall, on *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* by Edward Sri. If you would like a book to be ordered for you please contact Laura at 813-340-9305 or tennismc@msn.com. January 6 will cover p1-16.

BIBLE STUDY

We are starting a ten-week study on the Gospel of Matthew on Tuesday, January 18, at 10 am. Our group leader will be Kristen Noakes-Fry. Books are \$20. Please contact the office to register.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 26

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—D Ashcroft, P Jones, 10am—A Gerardi, R Hughes, **Lectors:** 8am—D Ashcroft, I Ashcroft, 10am—L Reale, 12:30pm—Alicia, Adrian, Manuel, Maria Clara

Monday, December 27

Lectors: 8am—M Taylor, 12pm—K Noakes, 7pm—Rigo,

Gil, Robinson

Tuesday, December 28

Lectors: 8am—K Noakes, 12pm—M Taylor

Wednesday, December 29

Lectors: 8am—L Reale, 12pm—M Taylor, 7pm—Norma

Thursday, December 30

Lectors: 8am—M Taylor, 12pm—L Shields

Friday, December 31

Eucharistic Ministers: 4pm—M Colravy, K Hossley, **Lectors:** 8am—A Convery, 12pm—L Ferreira, 4pm—C

Estock, 12am—A Convery

Saturday, January 1

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—, 10am—Sr Patrick, R Hughes, 4pm—K Harkins, R Vidro, **Lectors:** 8am—A Convery, 10am—M Taylor, 4pm—C Estock

Sunday, January 2

Eucharistic Ministers: 8am—D Ashcroft, P Jones, 10am—A Gerardi, R Hughes, **Lectors:** 8am—D Ashcroft, I Ashcroft, 10am—L Reale, 12:30pm—Andreina, Fabio, Gil, Teresita



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please note that names will be automatically removed from this list after three months. Please call the parish office to add a name to this list.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING

Faith, Mary, Meghan, Paul, Edith, Peggy Anne, Sylvia, Jean Ann, Felicitas, Adolfo, Jesus, Ileane, William, Jacob, Jeremy, Miranda, Lydia, Annette, Angela, Cecelia, Christine, Jill, Finnley, Jim, Lupita, Jeremiah, Jared, Phyllis, Natalie, Virginia, Jenn, Joe, Rick, Bud, Donna, Susan, Denise, George, Carmelita, Margaret H., Gianna, Tina, Laura, John, Gail, Karon, Beth Anne, Joe, Evelyn, Gerry, Ben, Mr. & Mrs. Verstappen, Victor, Karen, Rose Marie, John, Maureen, Colin, Paul, John, Joseph, Peggy, Kami, Katie, Anne-Marie, Simo, Josephine, Terry, Bill, Maria, Holly, Doris, Zima, Craig, Sharon, Mike, Robert, Phyllis, Jodi, Carly, Ann, Sharon, Beverly, Emily, Lynn, Mary Lou, Catherine, Roger, Maria, Alfredo, Eleanor, Dayana, Janet, Marilyn, Mary Ann, Bobby, Charlie, Christina, Peggy H., Mark, Renee, Glenn, Mary, Lynn, Sandra, Sally, Nick, Frank, Ed M., Paulette, Frank, Bozana, Mary Ellen, Sharon, Patty, Carlos, Maria Julia, Paula, Pam, Catherine, Amanda, Pat, Dennis, Lauren, Grace, Heidi, Scott, Lisa, Dawn Marie, Declan, Bodhi, Zora, Marie, Katherine, Miguel, Nick, Sharon, Frankie, Kathy, Lisa, Pam, Frank, Sara, Nick, Lynn, Sarah Kristen, Joseph & Theresa, Pierotti Family, Sarah, Maggie, Dyllan, Elba, Artie & Halai, Annie, Jeanie, Anne, Lynn, Chuck, Carl, Bella, Bill, Montana, Eli, Susan, Karen, Fran, Diane & Troy & Family, Lori, Patricia & Anthony, Paul, Kathy, Maryann, Mario, Anthony, Christina, Joseph & Lucy, Chuck, Robert, Missa, David, Chuck, Sue Ann, Tina, Angie, Don, Justine, Maria, the Agars, Eleanor, Fr. Tom, Arlene, Brooke, Vincent, Larry, Daniel, Kristen

STEWARDSHIP: ALL IN THE FAMILY

At first glance, we can often find the image of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and the Christ Child intimidating — who are we to aspire to that level of discipleship? How could we ever hope to conform ourselves to that mold? Sometimes, it can even be painful — perhaps we hail from a broken family or struggle with a broken relationship within our family, or perhaps we long to be a mother or a father ourselves and that state in life has eluded us.

But the image of the Holy Family is, in reality, a beautiful invitation to us all, no matter our vocation or our state in life, and the example of Mary, Joseph and Jesus is rich with the symbolism of stewardship.

You need not be a biological mother who has carried a child in her womb to be a mother in spirit. Who in your world needs you to love them with the heart of a mother?

The same goes for fatherhood. The Church and the world are crying out for the courageous witness of Christian men like St. Joseph. Who can you love with the steadfast, selfless protection of a father?

Who in your life needs you to love them with the faithful, unconditional love of a son? Who needs your gentle and constant love as a daughter?

We are the Body of Christ, friends. Those of us rejoicing in heaven, those of us suffering in purgatory, and those of us struggling here on earth. We are the great family. Let us love each other well.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPi



PARISH STEWARDSHIP

Weekend of December 11-12, 2021

Envelopes: 281 (out of 734 families)
Online Giving: \$ 840.00 (from 22 donors)

Weekly Total: \$ 8,626.55 Annual Budget: \$ 291,200.00

APA Electronic Giving

All major credit and debit cards (MasterCard, American Express, Visa and Discover) as well as direct debit payments are accepted. Donor managed online giving is available through the diocesan website at:

https://s.dosp.org/give

APA Checks

Please **do not** combine APA and Offertory in one check.

2021 APA

As of December 13, 2021

Goal: \$ 69,248.00 Pledged: \$ 58,708.00 Paid: \$ 61,117.50

Pledges: 250 (out of 734 families)

ALTAR FLOWERS A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to our Christmas flowers fund this year!

SANCTUARY LAMP

The sanctuary lamp this week is a gift from Jesus & Angelica Espino in honor of Jonathan Banuelos Espino.

ALTAR BREAD & WINE

The altar bread and wine this week is a gift from Bill Lugo in honor of Marie Lugo.

APA Pledging

Many people feel that they can participate at a sacrificial gift level if they make payments over a period of time. We currently work with monthly and annual pledge cycles. Donors who pledge will receive reminders according to their designated payment schedule.

APA One-Time Gifts

If donors prefer, a one-time gift can be paid at the time of commitment or payment can be scheduled for later.



LEARN ABOUT THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

ENCOURAGING DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF HIS LIFE & VIRTUES

TRUST IN GOD, CONTINUTED

Borrowed from catholicexchange.com
Trusting God means believing in His care for us even when evil seems to be gaining the upper hand — a point understood by the sixth-century abbot St. Stephen of Rieti. When a wicked man burned down the barns holding all the monastery's corn, the monks exclaimed to Stephen, "Alas for what has come upon you!" The abbot answered, "No, say rather, 'Alas for what has come upon him that did this deed,' for no harm has befallen me." As Stephen knew, God's providential care is far greater than any human treachery.

According to St. Albert the Great, "The greater and more persistent your confidence in God, the more abundantly you will receive all that you ask." This point is echoed by St. Teresa of Avila, who reassures us, "God is full of compassion and never fails those who are afflicted and despised, if they trust in Him alone."

If, indeed, we are trying to do God's work, instead of our own, we need not fear the results. The Lord is an expert at solving problems and providing for us in our need (even to the point of working miracles, if need be). The one thing He can't do, however, is force us to trust in Him. If we freely choose to do this, we're cooperating with His grace, and the results are guaranteed to be wonderful and amazing.



PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH FOR THE VIRTUE OF TRUST IN GOD

Great Saint Joseph,

who are the director, the friend, and the protector of those souls who desire to be perfect, you who did learn from Jesus and Mary how to conquer the powers of hell, and to practice all virtues, obtain for me the grace of TRUST IN GOD.

Beloved Saint Joseph, my father, my guide, and my model

you who have so much zeal for the glory of Jesus Christ, and for my sanctification,

please listen to my petition.

I have the sweet confidence that you will not reject it. Your goodness will supply that which is lacking in my fervor,

and according to the depth of your love for me, and of your power with Him Who has deigned to be called your Son,

you will favorably hear me. Amen.

ORACIÓN A SAN JOSÉ POR LA VIRTUD DE LA CONFIANZA EN DIOS

Gran San José,

quien es el director, el amigo y el protector de aquellas almas que desean ser perfectas, tú que aprendiste de Jesús y María cómo conquistar los poderes del infierno, y practicar todas las virtudes, obtén para mí la gracia de CONFIANZA EN DIOS. Amado San José, mi padre, mi guía y mi modelo, tú que tienes tanto celo por la gloria de Jesucristo y por mi santificación,

por favor escuche mi petición.

Tengo la dulce confianza de que no lo rechazará. Tu bondad suplirá lo que falta en mi fervor, y según la profundidad de tu amor por mí, y de tu poder con Aquel que se ha dignado ser llamado Hijo tuyo,

me escucharás favorablemente. Amén.

Very Rev. Emery Longanga, PhD *Pastor*

Rev. Fr. Jesus Martinez *Parochial Vicar*

Rev. Mr. Rick Zeitler Permanent Deacon Michele Williams Parish Manager

Marie Meza Parish Secretary

Neil Guan *Director of Faith Formation*

> Shirley Schuler Housekeeper

Bunny Harmon Evangelization & Worship

Angelica Bañuelos-Espino Weddings & Quinceañeras

Millie Haylock *Baptisms*

FAITH FORMATION

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merriest Christmas to all! December 26th we celebrate the feast of St. Stephen, one of the first martyrs of the early church. Here is a short biography of the life of St. Stephen from Saints & Angels.

Saint Stephen was one of the first ordained deacons of the Church. He was also the first Christian martyr. The Greek word from which we derive the English word martyr literally means witness. In that sense, every Christian is called to bear witness to Jesus Christ, in both their words and their actions. Not all are asked to shed their blood.

Those who do shed their blood for the faith are the greatest of witnesses. They have been especially honored since the very beginning of Christianity. Stephen was so conformed to Jesus in his holy life that his martyrdom was both a natural and supernatural sign of his love for the Lord. It also inspired the early believers as they faced the first round of brutal persecution.

His behavior, even forgiving those who were taking his life while he was being stoned to death, was a beautiful reflection of how conformed he truly was to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is recorded in Chapter 7 of the Acts of the



Apostles (Acts 7:54-60), which immediately follows the Gospels in the New Testament.

The 6th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles contains an account of the choice of the first seven deacons of the Church. As the Apostles worked to continue the ministry of Jesus Christ as his elders, some of the Greek-speaking widows were being neglected in their practical needs. The Twelve decided to ordain seven deacons to oversee their care. In doing so, the deacons extended the pastoral care of the Apostles, the first Bishops of the early Church, enabling them to attend more to teaching.

Faith Formation Returns January 9, 2022 at 11:15 am!!! See you there!

FORMED WATCHLIST

This week's FORMED weekly watchlist is Finnian and the Seven Mountains, an epic animated adventure series about a boy named Finnian and a mythical sword. Visit us at holycrossrcc.com to watch this exciting series for free on FORMED.org!

SAINT OUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Consider all the past as nothing and say, like David, 'Now I begin to love my God.'" - Saint Francis de Sales



THANK YOU

Holy Cross,

On behalf of our Congregation of the Servants of Jesus, the High Priest (SJP), we would like to thank you for your love and support of our Missionary Cooperation Plan, 2021.

On the weekend of September 18 & 19, 2021, Father Viet and our two sisters were welcomed and gratefully received \$4,815.00 from Holy Cross

Parish, Saint Petersburg. We sincerely "Dear Father Emery and the People of appreciate your support and care.

You are in our prayers as always.

Respectfully yours,

Sr. Mary Hurong Nguyen

Sr. Maria Phuong Nguyen

Fr. John Viet Nguyen"



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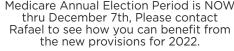
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