

Holy Cross Catholic Parish

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PARISH STAFF

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Rev. Mr. Phong Hoang, Permanent Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Anderson, Secretary

Mrs. Jennifer Cauchi, Pastoral Assistant



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

| Date | Time | Holy Mass | Parish Meetings |
|--|--|--|--|
| SUNDAY, December 24 Advent 4 | 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. | Sunday Eucharist - (I) Holy Cross Parish <i>(ON LINE at 6:00 a.m.)</i> | |
| CHRISTMAS EVE, Sunday, December 24 | 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 12 midnight | Christmas Eve Masses | |
| CHRISTMAS DAY, Monday, December 25 | 9:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. | Christmas Day Masses | |
| TUESDAY, December 26 | 6:00 p.m. | Holy Hour - <i>CANCELLED</i> | |
| | 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. | Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) - <i>CANCELLED</i> | |
| | | <i>No Daily Mass</i> | |
| WEDNESDAY, December 27 | | <i>No Daily Mass</i> | |
| THURSDAY, December 28 | | <i>No Daily Mass</i> | |
| FRIDAY, December 29 | | <i>No Daily Mass</i> | <i>followed by Adoration until 12:00 p.m. - <u>Cancelled</u></i> |
| SATURDAY, December 30 | 9:00 a.m. | Daily Mass † Deceased Members of the Guidotti & Amella Families | |
| | 4:00 - 4:30 p.m. | Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) | |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Vigil Mass - the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph <i>Offered for the Intentions of the Deceased Faithful:</i> Maria Polera; Nicole Viola; Rosalina dos Anjos, Duarte & Manuel Francisco Costa; Katharine Underhill; Ruth Ann Tenaglia; Giuseppe Aguiari. | This week's Sanctuary Lamp is in memory of Mary Beth Brown. |

From the Pastor's Desk

The way the calendar lines up this year, the 4th Week of Advent will last only a few hours! But that's okay, because the wait is almost over! Today we hear the story of the Annunciation in the gospel. With the angel Gabriel telling Mary that she will conceive and bear a son by the Holy Spirit! Mary in her humility agrees to God's plan, famously responding, "*Here I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word.*" For this short time that we celebrate the last 'week' of Advent, let us reflect on Mary's 'yes', and be imitators of her humility, her love, and her willingness to follow God's mysterious will in her life!

Quote of the Week

"The Teacher of children became himself a child among children, that he might instruct the unwise. The Bread of heaven came down to earth to feed the hungry." — *St. Cyril of Jerusalem*

Sunday Smile

What did Mrs. Claus say to Santa Claus when she looked up into the sky? I looks like rain-dear!

Christmas Mass Going 'Strategy'

As we all know, Christmas Masses can get busy! To help you decide which Mass you would like to attend, here were the attendance counts from last year (*for reference, our usual Sunday Mass crowds are between 250-350 people per Mass*):

- 5:00 p.m. - 917 people
- 7:00 p.m. - 387 people
- 9:00 p.m. - 319 people
- 12 midnight - 220 people
- 9:00 a.m. - 149 people
- 10:30 a.m. - 445 people

Christmas and the Sunday Obligation

If you've looked forward on the calendar you have probably noticed that Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday! So, what does a Catholic do? Our Sunday obligation (an obligation of love for our Lord!) remains to attend Mass on Sunday and for Christmas. This can mean a morning Mass on Sun, Dec 24th and a Christmas Eve Mass that same day, or it could mean any other combination of ONE Sunday Mass on Dec 23/24 and ONE Christmas Mass on Dec 24/25. You have many options, but for those who have

asked, yes, we are still to participated in one Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent, and one Mass for Christmas! (We will find ourselves in the same situation for New Years as we celebrate the Feast of Mary, Mother of God – same rules apply!)

Thank You!

As we all know Christmas is a busy time of year for the parish, and we can't do it without an army of volunteers! So, a big 'thank you' is in order to all of our staff, for our Ushers, Servers, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Choirs, Decorators, Sacristans, Collection Counters, and everyone else who helps us to pull it all together for Christmas Masses. Thank you!!! - Merry Christmas! - Fr. Dave

No Weekday Masses - Dec 26-29

So that Fr. Carlos and Fr. Dave have an opportunity to spend some time with family (that live out of town) over Christmas, please note that there will be no weekday Masses, Confessions or Adoration between Dec 26th - 29th. We will start up again with Saturday morning Mass at 9am on Dec 30th. Thank you for your understanding!

Feast of Mary, Mother of God - Dec 31 - Jan 1

The Feast of Mary, Mother of God is a Solemnity in the Church and a Holy Day of Obligation. We will offer our usual Mass schedule for Sunday (Dec 30/31) for the Feast of the Holy Family, and the Masses for Mary, Mother of God on Dec 31/Jan 1 will be:

- Sun, Dec 31 - 5:00pm
- Mon, Jan 1 - 9:00am & 10:30am (no 12 noon Mass today)

Office Closed Week of December 25-29.

Please note that the office will be closed the week of December 25th – 29th.

Sunday Offering Envelopes for 2024

Boxed sets of 2024 envelopes are available for pick in the Narthex. If you are not currently an envelope user and would like to start please contact the parish office. Also, *pre-authorized giving* forms for 2024 were mailed this week - please return them promptly. If you would like to learn more about this way of supporting the parish please contact the office.

Year End Donations

CRA regulations prevent us from accepting 2023 donations in 2024. If you would like to make a "year end donation" please do so before or by December 31, 2023. Donations received or dated after December 31 must be credited for 2024. Thank you.

Sunday (Novalis) Missals

2024 Sunday Missals will be available for purchase after all Masses this weekend. The Knights of Columbus sell the Missals for \$5 each. The Sunday Missal is useful for reflecting on the Scripture readings before Mass. Your 2023 Missals can be left with the Knights for disposal.

HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Choking Awareness

Choking is when someone cannot breathe because food, a toy, or another object is blocking the throat resulting in not enough oxygen reaching the lungs. Without oxygen, brain damage or death can occur in as little as 4-5 minutes. Rapid first aid for choking can save a person's life. Young children are at especially high risk. When an older child or adult is choking, they will often grab their throat with their hand. DO NOT perform first aid if the person is coughing forcefully and can speak. A strong cough can dislodge the object. Encourage the person to keep coughing to dislodge the object. If the person cannot speak or is having a hard time breathing, you need to act fast to help them. You can perform abdominal thrusts, back blows, or both. Visit www.medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000049.htm for more information.

Register Your Child for Kindergarten at HCDSB!

Kindergarten registration at the Haltopn Catholic District School Board (HCDSB) for the 2024-2025 school year is now open! Parents and guardians who are interested in registering their child for Kindergarten are invited to visit the HCDSB website for more information: <https://hcdsb.info/KindergartenRegistration>

Rosary Repairs

Do you have a broken rosary lying around that you're not sure what to do with? Well, there's good news! We have a parishioner that has the skills and tools to repair rosaries, and is more than happy to do so for you! There is a box in the narthex titled 'Rosary Repairs' – simply take an envelope from the box to insert the broken rosary, write your name and contact information on it and we will let you know when it's fixed and ready to pick up.

Hospital Stays

For your information - Due to privacy laws, the hospital does not provide us with a list of Catholic patients as was the practice in the past, even if you give them information about your religious affiliation when admitted. This is just a reminder that if you find yourself or a loved one in the hospital and wish to have a visit from Father, please contact the office so we don't miss you! If it is an emergency, ask a nurse to contact the on-call priest.

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