

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 2016



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 17 - 4:30 pm, Holy Cross

Sunday, December 18 - 7:45 am, Holy Cross

**Sunday, December 18 - 9:15 am, St. Martin's
Anna Henrie by Leander and Anna Cormier**

Sunday, December 18 - 10:45 am, Holy Cross

Monday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent

Tuesday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Wednesday - 8 am at Holy Cross, 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday - 9 am at St. Vincent de Paul

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - 4:00 pm, Holy Cross

**Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve - midnight, St. Martin's
Elsie Smith, by Linda Columbus**

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day - 10:00 am, Holy Cross

Weekly Offering: \$880 Fuel: \$150 Immaculate Conception: \$96

Retirement Fund for Religious: \$155

Second Collection Next Week: Christmas Offering

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND SHUT INS

Please pray for Zachary Fleming, Ruth Alie, Bob Young, Janet Clark, Marie Quader, Marie Jacques, Trey Niles, Margaret Murdock, Connie Hamel, Sandy Kulvete, Alice Ostrowski, Deb Nichols, Mary Amistadi, Dylan Murray, Anne Marie Beliveau, Rachel Catlow, Alicia Wieszorek, Bob Brown, Claudette Yackowski, Emma Blais, Angela Martin, George Yackowski, Donald Leblanc.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

This Sunday, the CCD students in Grades 6-11 will go Christmas Caroling at the homes of some of our shut-in parishioners. The bus leaves at 5:00 pm from the Holy Cross parking lot.

WEEKDAY MASS CANCELLATIONS

When conditions warrant "Delays or No School" cancellations, there will be NO MASS also. Mass intentions can be transferred to another day. We value the lives of our parishioners. Stay Safe!

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home." —Matthew 1:24

Let us put our complete trust in the Lord without expecting anything in return. Striving to put God first in all things and follow Him wherever He may lead us. As we prepare for the birth of our Lord, let us pray for the strength and courage to be a model of discipleship, just as Joseph was.

RESPECT LIFE

"Help one another: This is what Jesus teaches us and this is what I am doing, and doing with all my heart." —Pope Francis, Homily on Holy Thursday. ©2013 Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Those of you who desire to do so, may make an offering for our Christmas Altar Flowers and decorations. Envelopes are available in the vestibule and are included in your weekly envelope packet. They may be given in memory of loved ones, who will have a special remembrance at Masses during the Christmas Season.

WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES

Due to a printing delay, the boxed sets of collection envelopes for 2017 have not yet arrived at the church; they are expected to arrive soon. In the meantime, blank envelopes are available in the vestibule if you would like to take a couple home to cover a week or two.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE AT TEMPLETON CHURCHES

**December 24: 4 pm at Holy Cross,
6:30 pm at St. Vincent de Paul**

**December 24: Midnight @ St. Martin's
(choral prelude at 11:30 pm)**

**December 25: 10 am at Holy Cross,
8 & 11 am at St. Vincent de Paul**



(Please note there will not be a 6 pm Mass at Holy Cross on Christmas Eve. The New Year's Day schedule will be the usual weekend Mass schedule.)

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve begins with a moving choral prelude at 11:30 pm. Plan to come early, relax, and prepare for the arrival of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

RITE OF CALLING

Rite of Calling for Confirmation students, Gr. 11 will be on Sunday, January 8, 2017 at the 10:45 am Mass.

FIRST PENANCE

Congratulations to all the students who made their First Penance recently. May the joy that comes from knowing God's forgiveness be always with you.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Lord, In this, your holy season, let us never forget that you are the Lord of the unexpected.

You saved Israel from slavery by parting the Red Sea before them.
You saved Jerusalem from the armies of the evil King Sennacherib through a mighty angel that slew thousands in a night.

You saved Noah and his family from the flood by commanding him to build an ark in the desert.

You saved the armies of Saul from the Philistines through a little shepherd boy with a sling and a stone.

And on this day you came to save us all from death by becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

You came not as a powerful king in a palace. Not as a marauding general with an army, not as a high priest in a handsome robe, but as someone lesser than these, and greater than all.

Amen.

120 CLUB

Last week's winner was #105, Maryann Nurmi. The final drawing will be held soon... if your ticket is not yet paid up, please see Linda Columbus. Tickets must be paid up in order to be included in the big drawing.

BOOK EXTRAVAGANZA

The Religious Education Board & Rosary Sodality will be hosting their Second "Book Extravaganza" January 29, 2017 at Holy Cross Church. We are in need of gently used books for ages: Preschool - Gr.11. We will also have an Adult section for our Adult parishioners. Please mark donations for which age group, to help with sorting and leave the books on the stage in the church hall. We will be collecting books from now until Jan. 27, 2017.

OPLATEK, A CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Oplatek is a Polish Christmas Wafer. It is typically rectangular, and the size of a hand, embossed with a Christmas scene, such as the Nativity. It is made of flour & water pressed between two engraved pieces of metal and is similar to the bread wafer used in Holy Communion.

Before sitting down to Christmas Eve dinner, many families with roots in Poland and other Central European countries will take part in a tradition dating back hundreds of years. At the start of dinner, just after grace, people take turns and break off a piece of the Oplatek, eat it and share well wishes to each other. We have Oplatek available in the vestibule for a free will donation for those who would like to keep this tradition.

TEMPLETON FOOD PANTRY

The Templeton Food Pantry is always in need of donations. Non-perishable food may be brought to Mass any Sunday and volunteers will deliver your donations to the Pantry. Please help our neighbors in need.



St. Martin's Catholic Church

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Rev. Marcin W. Nowicki, Pastor

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Rosary

20 minutes before weekend Masses

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions are heard at 3:45 pm on Saturdays at Holy Cross Church during the fall/winter season, or by appt.

Sacrament of Christian Marriage

Plans may be made by contacting the Pastor at least one year prior to the intended wedding date.

Ministry to the Sick and Elderly

Please notify us when a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized so that we may visit the confined person and offer the sacraments of the Church.

Parish Registration

If you are new to the area, we welcome you to join our parish family. Please introduce yourself after Mass and register in the parish. We want to know and serve you.