

# HOLY CROSS PARISH COMMUNITY

Founded and Staffed  
by the  
Congregation of Holy Cross



Visit us on Facebook at:  
Holy Cross Parish Easton, MA



THE CHILD GREW  
AND BECAME  
STRONG, FILLED  
WITH WISDOM; AND  
THE FAVOR OF GOD  
WAS UPON HIM.  
—LK 2:40

THE HOLY FAMILY

## Mission Statement

Holy Cross Parish, a community centered in the Eucharist, is committed in faith and love of Jesus Christ to fulfill the profoundly human and spiritual needs of its parishioners and the larger community it serves. We seek to inspire all, through deeds and by example, to do the work of Christ: to make God known, loved, and served.

## Pastoral Staff

Fr. Brad Metz, C.S.C., *Pastor*  
bmetz@holycrosseaston.org

Christopher Iannitelli, *Director Of Music*  
ciannitelli@holycrosseaston.org

Lindsay Franzoni, *Admin. Assistant*  
info@holycrosseaston.org

Fr. Jim Preskenis, C.S.C., *Parochial Vicar*  
jpreskenis@holycrosseaston.org

Deacon Gary Donahue, *Pastoral Associate*  
gdonahue@holycrosseaston.org

Margaret Dwyer-Hogan, *DRE*  
mdhogan@holycrosseaston.org

Paul Celia, *Plant Manager*

Deborah Kelley, *Finance*

## Contact Information

225 Purchase Street • Easton, MA 02375 Phone - (508) 238-2235

Web Address - [www.holycrosseaston.org](http://www.holycrosseaston.org)

Please submit bulletin notices to the office in writing by 9 a.m. on Tuesdays

## Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Mass Schedule

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. - Sunday: 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

Monday through Friday - 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation - 9:00 a.m. & 7 p.m.

## Sacraments

**Baptism:** Contact a member of the pastoral team to schedule a baptism for your child or for preparation for adult baptism.

**Sacrament of Christian Marriage:** Please contact one of the priests eight months to a year in advance to schedule your wedding and begin preparations.

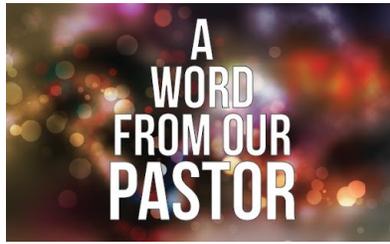
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday from 3:15 - 3:45 p.m. or anytime by appointment.

**Sacrament of the Sick:** This sacrament is available to anyone who is ill. Please let us know if you or anyone you know is hospitalized or homebound.

## Welcome

Please introduce yourselves and register in order to become a member of this community of believers.

We welcome your gifted presence in the life of our parish.



Dear Parishioners and Guests,

**Merry Christmas!** This is a year the world needs joy. Singing *Joy to the World* hopefully lifts everyone's spirits a bit more this year. Some of you are reading this in person at church while many others are reading it from home. Wherever you are I hope and pray gazing upon Baby Jesus in the manger with Mary and Joseph deepens your faith, hope, and love. This Christmas may find us feeling a bit unsettled and wondering about the future like the Holy Family over two thousand years ago. Their hearts were likely torn between being around some family in Bethlehem while apart from others in Nazareth. They ended up isolated from others in the inn, but a miracle nevertheless happened. God's priceless gifts of love and joy find open hearts no matter where we are and who we may or may not be able to be with this Christmas. It is the love and joy of these holy days that bind us across the miles and around the globe. I am grateful to be able to share in God's gifts with you this year.

Over fifty families are sharing in Christmas joy this year thanks to your thoughtful generosity. Once again, I am grateful to parishioner Patti Saganey for coordinating this year's first ever virtual Giving Tree. It was heartwarming to scroll through the list and see sold out roll by again and again. It was also inspiring to see all of the returned gifts sorted and now an empty church basement knowing the presents made it to children, teens, women and men whose Christmas will be brighter because of you. Thank you.

Thank you as well to parishioner Annie Iannitelli and her Christmas crew who gave of their time and creativity on Wednesday evening to decorate the church for the Christmas season. The decorations, especially the brilliance of the lights and poinsettias, help us all feel and experience the unique grace of the season. I will leave the front doors unlocked and the Christmas lights on in church every evening of the Christmas Octave (December 24<sup>th</sup>-January 1<sup>st</sup>) from 4:00-8:00pm for anyone who would like to come and pray amid the warm glow. You can also view inside the church on the live stream camera from anywhere with a connection. Hopefully, this provides an inspiring space apart from Mass times to feel connected, supported, and encouraged, as we say goodbye to 2020 and welcome the hopefulness of 2021.

Your support and generosity to Holy Cross Parish is necessary and very much appreciated. Your physical and virtual presence enlivens the church into a parish community of believers. Your volunteered time and monetary support make keeping God known, loved, and served here possible. On behalf of Fr. Jim, Deacon Gary, Lindsay, Margret, PJ, Debbie, and Chris, may you and your family have a very Merry Christmas today and throughout the season and a blessed, healthy, and Happy New Year! We are always here to respond to your spiritual needs and appreciate your receptivity and response to our invitations to serve and support each other and our sisters and brothers in need. If Holy Cross is not already your spiritual home and you would like to put down roots, please let us know by visiting the parish website ([www.holycrosseaston.org](http://www.holycrosseaston.org)) and choose the *Register at Holy Cross* button on the homepage. We look forward to adding you to the flock!

God Bless,

Fr. Brad

*Note: This is the Christmas and Sunday, Solemnity of the Holy Family, bulletin (both sets of readings within).*



*Special Appeal*

**Parish Special Appeal**

Our sincere thanks to all who have already made a pledge on behalf of our Parish Special Appeal, dedicated to raising funds needed for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of our parish plant as well as some major projects.

Our Goal: \$45,000  
 Pledged as of 12/13: \$22,305  
 Still Need: \$22,695

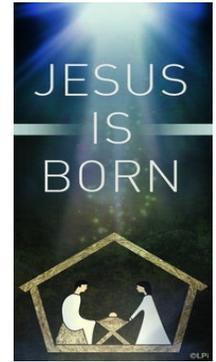
It is through your generous support that we are able to maintain our high level of parish activity as well as the quality of our parish facilities. We appreciate your generosity in this year's Special Appeal.

Please place your pledge card and envelope in the regular Sunday collection baskets in the back of the church. You can also mail or bring it to the parish center. Extra pledge cards are available upon request after Masses or call the parish office.

You can also give online. Click the "Online Giving" button on our website [holycrosseaston.org](http://holycrosseaston.org).

Week Ending 12/13/20 Donations:

- |                                   |                              |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Mary Anderson                     | Anne Iannitelli              |
| Maureen Burke                     | Joyce Isiminger              |
| Constance Burne                   | Jimmy Kempf                  |
| Carol Burton                      | Jeane & Carl LaCivita        |
| Paul Cahill                       | Ray & Ursula Lawson          |
| Jeff & Tara Camara                | Frances Long                 |
| Christopher & Suzanne Carey       | Stephen & Donna Lyons        |
| Russell Carlson Memorial Donation | John McLaughlin              |
| Martha Cogan                      | Andrew & Bridget Malachowski |
| Kevin & Paula Connor              | Richard Mather               |
| Daniel Crane                      | Tom Murray                   |
| Kevin Dixon                       | Kathleen Nardi               |
| William & Elen Donahue            | The O'Reilly family          |
| Lynne Doty                        | John Peterson                |
| Marianne & Bob Dyke               | Virginia Polanski            |
| Bill & Noreen Faradie             | Robert & Elaine Reddy        |
| John & Eileen Finning             | Paul & Christine Reilly      |
| Bob Fitzgerald                    | Martin Reynolds              |
| Jim & Becky Fleming               | Joe Ricci                    |
| John & Aimee Foley                | Christopher Romans           |
| Mark & Lindsay Franzoni           | John & Jackie St. Cyr        |
| Olga Garriga                      | Paul & Sue Sessler           |
| Paul Giorgio                      | Louis & Jeanne Silva         |
| Joseph & Suzanne Gomes            | Susan Simoneau               |
| Mike & Amy Grucan                 | Charles & Mary Smallwood     |
| JoEllen Gurman                    | George Joseph Sullivan       |
| Greg Hagopian                     | Linda Sullivan               |
| Greg & Diane Hart                 | Mary Tighe                   |
| Julie Hanscom                     | Anthony & Mary Tranfaglia    |
| Larry & Michelle Hassan           | George & Maura Tyrrell       |
| Martha Heckman                    | Tami Wehbe                   |
| Rosemary Heppler                  | Mary & John Welch            |
| John C. Hurley                    | Arthur Williams              |
| Vincent Hurley                    | Stephen Wilson               |
|                                   | Bonnie Witiaz                |



✠ **Thursday, December 24**

2:00 p.m. FOR THE  
 3:30 p.m. PEOPLE  
 5:00 p.m. OF THE  
 8:00 p.m. PARISH

✠ **Friday, December 25**

12:00 a.m. FOR THE  
 8:30 a.m. PEOPLE OF  
 10:00 a.m. THE PARISH

✠ **Saturday, December 26**

4:00p.m. Joe Campbell

Requested by Martha, Matt and Megan Campbell

✠ **Sunday, December 27**

8:30 a.m. Margaret Czerwonka

Requested from The Heffernan Family

10:00 a.m. Jane & Jack Gilbride

Requested from Family

✠ **Monday, December 28**

9:00 a.m. Kevin Brennan one month Anniversary

Requested from The Brennan Family

✠ **Tuesday, December 29**

9:00 a.m.

✠ **Wednesday, December 30**

9:00 a.m.

✠ **Thursday, December 31**

9:00 a.m.

✠ **Friday, January 1**

9:00 a.m.

✠ **Saturday, January 2**

4:00p.m. Michal and Norah Connor

Requested From Family

✠ **Sunday, January 3**

8:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m.



Season of Christmas 2020



All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God (Psalm 98:3c)

Isn't this the 'reason for the season'?!

**DECEMBER 25, 2020**

---



**Diocese of Fall River**  
*Office of the Bishop*

*Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V., D.D.*

*Bishop da Cunha's 2020 Christmas Message*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas is upon us, although seemingly a bit different this year. Because of the pandemic, many of us will not be celebrating in the ways we typically associate with Christmas - large family gatherings, holiday parties, seasonal concerts, and caroling.

However, I firmly believe that this can be a very special Christmas with less emphasis on many of the external and social dimensions of the season. What we have instead is an opportunity to focus more on the spiritual aspect—the true meaning of Christmas: the coming of Christ into our lives and into our world. So my prayer and hope for each one of you is that, as you celebrate Christmas this year - as family, as friends, as a community of faith – Jesus will be at the center of all that you do, the purpose for all you do and give meaning to all you do. Let us put Jesus back into Christmas, and as the saying goes, make Jesus truly the “reason for the season”.

This year, more than ever before, is a time to remember the blessing of the Octave of Christmas. The Catholic Church does not keep the celebration of Christmas to December 25<sup>th</sup> only. Christmas is celebrated over eight days, from Christmas Day to January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. What a marvelous opportunity to embrace the joy of the season, allowing the Light of Christ to dispel the darkness of the past nine months. Just as I did during Advent, I again encourage you as a family to place Christ at the center of your celebrations.

To all of us in the Diocese of Fall River, may the coming of Christ, the Prince of Peace, fill us with a new peace, one that only He can give. Let us embrace not only His peace, but the joy of this season. I believe we will get through all the challenges ahead of us with the Lord's help. In His presence, in His grace, we'll reach a unique place this year where we can truly say that Christmas is about Christ.

May the peace, hope, and joy of this season be with us now and remain with us far beyond this Christmas. May these gifts, that only God can bestow upon us, reign in our hearts, in our homes, and in our world. May God bless you and your loved ones, and may you enjoy a very happy, joyful, blessed, and Merry Christmas.

*Merry Christmas! Feliz Natal! Feliz Navidad! Joyeux Noël!*

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Edgar M. da Cunha, S.D.V.  
Bishop of Fall River

**READING 1**



A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch. Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

**READING 2**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus Beloved:

When the kindness and generous love of God our savior appeared, not because of any righteous deeds we had done but because of his mercy, he saved us through the bath of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he richly poured out on us through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

**GOSPEL** Luke (2:1-14,

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told to them.

**THE NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



**READING 1**

A reading from the Book of Sirach

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.

**READING 2**

A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Colossians

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.

**GOSPEL**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

**THE NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.