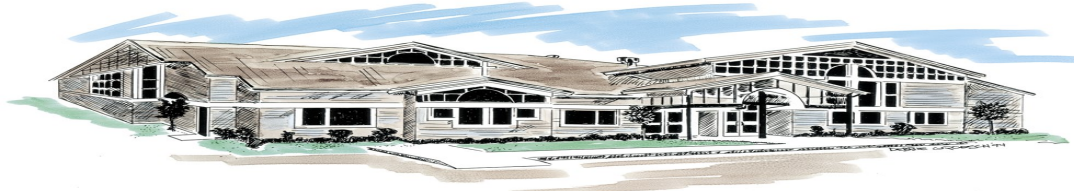


# HOLY CROSS PARISH

Year MMXXI#51

of the Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau



Blessed  
are you  
among  
women



and blessed  
is the  
fruit of  
your womb



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## The Fourth Sunday of the Season of Advent

December 19, 2021

“Behold the handmaid of the Lord!”

2627 Lore Road, Anchorage, AK 99507  
(907)349-8388 | [holycrossalaska.net](http://holycrossalaska.net)  
Office Hours: Mon- Thu, 9 am- 1 pm

### Holy Mass

Mon- Fri, 9 am  
Sat, 5 pm  
Sun, 8:30 am & 11 am



Mass is livestreamed on Facebook  
weekdays, Sat 5 pm, & Sun 11 am

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sat 3- 4 pm or by appointment.

### Mission Statement

*There are different ministries, but the same Lord.  
You then are the Body of Christ.  
Everyone of you is a member of it.  
1 Corinthians 12:5 & 27*

**Father Pat Travers, *Pastor***  
[pitravers@att.net](mailto:pitravers@att.net)

**Father Dan Hebert, *Parochial Vicar***  
[livenowdan@gmail.com](mailto:livenowdan@gmail.com)

**Deacon Bill and Diane Finnegan**

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**Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau**  
**Archbishop Andrew Bellisario C.M.**  
(907)297-7700 | [aoaj.org](http://aoaj.org)

# This Week at Holy Cross

## Mon Dec. 20

9am- Mass  
1pm- Aspen Creek Service

## Tue Dec. 21

9am- Mass

## Wed Dec 22

**Parish Office Closed**  
9am- Mass  
5:30pm- RCIA  
7pm- Christmas Choir rehearsal

## Thu Dec. 23

**Parish Office Closed**  
9am- Mass

## Fri Dec 24

**Parish Office Closed**  
9 am- Mass  
5pm- Mass  
Midnight- Mass

## Sat Dec 25 Merry Christmas!

8:30 am- Mass  
11 am- Mass  
No confession available

## Sun Dec 26

8:30 am- Mass  
11 am- Mass Offered for the People of the Parish  
12-12:15 pm- Dist. of Holy Communion

## SAVE THE DATE!

**Our parish's first  
Synod meeting:  
January 23, 2022  
immediately following  
the 11am Mass**



### Readings for Dec 26, 2021

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

#### Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

*Those who fear the Lord honor their parents.*

#### Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

*Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.*

#### Colossians 3:12-21

*Family life in the Lord.*

#### Luke 2:41-52

*His parents found Jesus sitting in the midst of the teachers.*

## Reflection

This week's readings are a juxtaposition of traditionally feminine and masculine imagery: In the gospel, Elizabeth has an experience directly tied to her pregnancy, and in the first reading, Micah describes a leader who is a "firm" and "majestic" shepherd. However, both passages hinge on an unexpected turn: Elizabeth cries out loudly and says exactly what she's thinking, and Micah's Ruler is the embodiment of peace. By pairing these two passages in this week's liturgy, we are invited to contemplate a Messiah who speaks to the nuanced experience of both women and men.

### Pregnant, Strong, and Faithful

I love the meeting of Mary and Elizabeth, a rare depiction of pregnant women in Scripture. Both pregnancies defy social norms: Elizabeth is too old, and Mary is a young virgin. Salvation history depends on them, for each bears a miracle within her: John, the last of the prophets foretelling the Messiah, and Jesus the Savior, the Son of God.

Although art often shows Mary as fragile, she must have been sturdy and strong to climb those steep Judean hills. Then as now, pregnancy and childbirth are messy and dangerous, and these women are risking their lives to give birth to John and Jesus. We need to see them as pregnant for that reason, even though their state points to "the scandal" of the incarnation.

That scandal, that God relied on female flesh to come into the world, is often revealed in a paradox. We gladly celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas, but images of Mary depicting her "baby bump" can be criticized as sacrilegious. Contemporary women, too, experience a dichotomy. As recently as forty years ago, married women teaching in Christian schools—both Protestant and Roman Catholic—were expected (and sometimes forced) to leave once their pregnancy became visible.

So let's celebrate Mary and Elizabeth—pregnant women, greeting each other with the words God gave them. Both are blessed because, against all odds, they believed that what God promised them would be fulfilled. Let us be willing to use the bodies God gave us to help bring Christ into the world.

Kathleen Norris

*Kathleen Norris is an oblate of St. Benedict and the author of many books, including The Cloister Walk and Acedia and Me.*

### On the way home from Mass...

Does Elizabeth's response, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb," sound familiar? What prayer includes those words?



## Christmas Mass

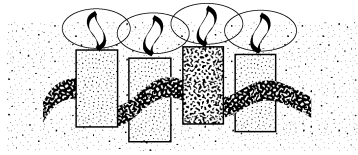
Fri, Dec 24, 5pm and Midnight

Sat, Dec 25, 8:30am\* and 11am

\*COVID precautions taken: Masks required & space limited

### Other Mass Schedules:

- NO Mass on Sat, Dec 25 at 5pm
- Sun, Dec 26, 8:30am and 11am
- Fri, Dec 31, 9am (daily Mass) and 5pm (Vigil Solemnity)
- Sat, Jan 1, 11am (Solemnity) and 5pm (Regular Mass)



### Giving Tree (ends this weekend!)

Thank you for supporting the Giving Tree! Please drop off your donations this weekend.

### Hospitality begins in the parking lot

How can we welcome those who are new and visiting our parish this Christmas and New Year's? Here are a few practical tips:

- **Park in the back.** If you're able, park further away and leave spaces at the front for elderly and guests.
- **Say "Merry Christmas."** This applies in the church and in the parking lot!
- **Sit in the middle of the row,** toward the front, so that latecomers can find a seat on an end.
- **Smile at children.** And be friendly toward the parents! A little compassion goes a long way!

## Other News

### THANK YOU!

*We have passed our United in Mission Goal! Thank so much for your support! All new donations we be returned to Holy Cross to continue and support our mission and meet the needs of our parish!*

UNITED IN MISSION ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL



"AS MISSIONARY DISCIPLES OF CHRIST,  
WE ARE UNITED IN THE TASK OF BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

### Holy Cross Finance Committee

The finance council has been hard at work! They would like to let you know how they are helping out local community and communities across the globe!

- Many may remember Father Andrew Lee who is now working with the Korean Missionary Society in Cambodia to support a clinic. The needs of the community he serves are great. Holy Cross Parish Finance committee agreed to double parishioners gifts up to \$5000 and is working with two confirmation students to organize a collection! Be on the lookout for more details to come.
- Scholarship funds for Catholic education are available through Holy Cross! Applications for scholarship funds will be available starting January 5<sup>th</sup>. Please feel free to call the office for more information in the meantime.
- Holy Cross finance council also was able to donate \$1000 in support of Clare House! Thank you again for your support!
- Passing the Basket will begin soon!

### Retrouaille

Marriage Troubles? If your marriage has become troubled and stressed, unloving or uncaring; if you have grown cold and distant; even if you are divorced or separated, or are thinking about it, Retrouaille (pronounced retro-vi) can help, as it has helped tens of thousands of others. Our next program begins February 25, 2022. For more information, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com), or call 907-863-8000 or email: [anchorage@helpourmarriage.org](mailto:anchorage@helpourmarriage.org)

AVE, MARIA  
gratia plena  
Dominus tecum

Hail, Mary  
full of grace  
the Lord is with thee

**PARISH MINISTRIES SERVICE TEAM**

- Altar Servers** - Jess Manaos: 230-9418
- Art & Environment** - Marilyn Kerr: 346-1624
- Baked Goods** - Joan Karcz: 344-0168
- Blessed Sacrament Monastery** - Sandon Broek: 947-9168
- Clare House** - Leslie Holland: 770-0847
- Faith Formation** - Anna Schulten: 306-9363
- Church Maintenance** - Mike Likar: 529-9015
- Eucharistic Ministers** - John Hoppe: 350-7580
- Finance** - Greg Magee: 575-3197
- Habitat for Humanity** - John & Anita Roberts: 344-7144
- Hospitality** - Joy Maglaqui: 360-5133
- Knights of Columbus** - James Hogins: 229-3163
- Lawn and Garden** - Kirsten Hoppe: 248-1653
- Legion of Mary** - Mercy Acheson: 223-4822
- Library** - Debi Wickler: 952-1879
- Music Ministry** - Sheila Soukup: 250-6234
- Prayer Chain** - Joan Gillis: 346-3147
- Readers** - Jason Hlasny: 242-6655
- RCIA** - Sandon Broek: 947-9168
- Sacristan** - Matthew Williams: 562-0188
- Snow Plowing** - Vince Garrouette: 522-3647
- Vocations** - Sister Joan Oberle: 349-8388



**Online Giving**

To sign up for consistent online giving please visit [holycrossalaska.net/give](http://holycrossalaska.net/give)

<b>TITHING UPDATE</b>			
<i>How did we do last week in meeting our weekly offertory goal?</i>			
Weekly Offertory Goal:	\$	6,577	
Weekly Tithing Period:		12/6-12/2021	
<b>Income Sources</b>			
Weekly Collections:	\$	3,930	
Holy Day/Holiday Collections:	\$	-	
Online Giving:	\$	2,595	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>6,525</b>	
Over/(Under) Goal:	\$	(52)	
Actual vs. Goal (%):		99.2%	
<b>Year to Date (YTD) Income Comparison:</b>			
<i>Actual versus Budget Total Incomes for FY22 YTD Period</i>			
FY22 YTD Period:	7/1/2021 to 09/30/2021		
FY22 YTD Complete (%):	25.0%		
Annual Budget Total Income FY 2022:	\$	342,000	
Actual Total Income for Period:	\$	86,210	
Budget Total Income for Period:	\$	85,500	
Over/(Under) Budget for Period:	\$	710	
Actual vs. Budget for Period (%):		25.2%	
<b>Breakdown of Actual Total Income for FY22 YTD Period</b>			
FY22 YTD Period:	7/1/2021 to 09/30/2021		
Weekly Collections (Basket/Mail):	\$	46,831	54.3%
Holy Day/Holiday Collections (Basket/Mail):	\$	100	0.1%
Online Giving:	\$	39,279	45.6%
2021 United in Mission Annual Appeal (Rebates):	\$	-	0.0%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>86,210</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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