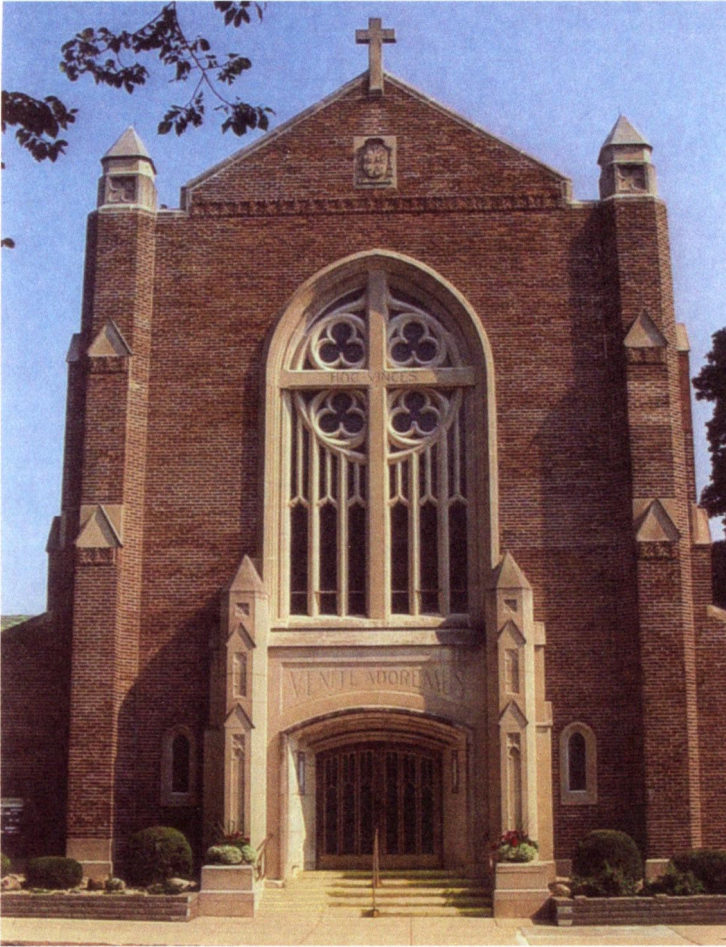


Holy Cross Church

Catholic Diocese of Peoria
1010 Jefferson Street • Mendota IL 61342
Phone 815-538-6151 • Fax 815-539-5014
www.holycrosscongregation.weebly.com



Pastor

Fr. Peter A. Pilon

Pastoral Work

Deacon Ray Fischer

Deacon Jose Lopez

Deacon Hector Diaz

Music Director

Roy VanOpdorp

Director of Religious Education

Brian R. Corrigan

Business Manager

Lorraine Walter

Administrative Assistant

Mary Lou Flahive

Ready, Set, Grow Extended Care

Julie Winner - 815-538-7604

Offers Day Care for 3 year old to 12 year old.

Learning Lambs Pre-School

815-539-7003

3 yr old and 4 yr old sessions

Mass Schedule

Please check inside cover for all Mass times.

Confessions

Saturday - 7:00 a.m to 7:40 a.m. 3:00 to 3:45 p.m.

Sunday - 30 minutes prior to 6:30 a.m. Mass

Adoration Chapel

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

(Closed on funeral days and holidays)

Baptism

Pre-baptismal instruction is required. Call the office for information and scheduling a date.

Weddings

Before any other wedding arrangements are made, please contact the parish priest 6-8 months in advance.

Homebound and Hospital Visits

Please call the office during times of illness and visits will be arranged.

Cemetery Lots Purchase

Please call Steve Schmitt 815-538-5276

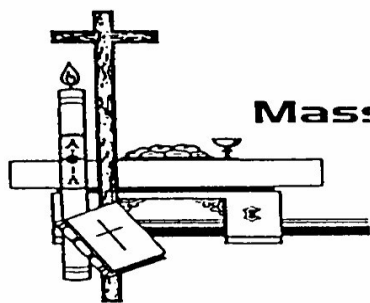


Holy Cross School

1008 Jefferson St. Mendota, IL 61342

815-539-7003

Principal - Anita Kobilsek



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 11th

4:00 p.m. +Mr. & Mrs. Fran Ege by Bob & Rose Ann Saylor

Sunday, June 12th

9:00 a.m. +Dave Pohl

12:00 p.m. +Enrique by Grace

Monday, July 13th

8:00 a.m. +Robert & Edna Fetzer by Deane & Phyllis Vogel

Tuesday, July 14th

7:00 a.m. +Brian Jones by Hector & Maria Arredondo

Wednesday, July 15th

8:00 a.m. +Louis Del Santo by Ellen Jones and Family

Thursday, July 16th

7:00 a.m. +Danny Arredondo by His Grieving Parents

Friday, July 17th

8:00 a.m. +Joseph McNally by Norbert Weber

Saturday, July 18th

4:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Members:
John & Ella Soltis Family by Family

Sunday, June 19th

9:00 a.m. +Tío Joe Arteaga by Héctor & María Arredondo

12:00 p.m. +Alex y Marcela Cortez 25th Wedding Anniversary
by Family

MASS IN THE CHURCH



Thanks be to God, beginning with the 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday afternoon, we will once again be able to participate in the holy sacrifice of the Mass *inside* the church.

Everyone should be aware that we are still restricted in the number of attendees we are allowed to have. Abuse of these restrictions, or stretching them in any way will surely be cause to lose our privilege of reopening the church building for worshipping together.

We will have ushers to direct people to the proper pews; greeters to check people in, offer hand sanitizer and other support. Please be sure to follow the direction of the greeters and ushers.

It should also be noted that the church will not be opened more than 30 minutes before the Mass's published start time.

There will still be some details to work out and work on as we begin this new time of worshipping together, while maintaining social distancing from our neighbors. Families living under the same roof will be allowed to occupy the same pew and not observe the otherwise required social distancing rules. Couples will be seated together, and single attendees will be seated accordingly.

*We do expect the strong likelihood that we may have more people wanting to worship in the church than we actually have room for. Please know that we will still have the loudspeaker set up so that people who cannot come into the church may still attend Mass from the parking lot. *{At the conclusion of the Mass, Father or one of the Deacons will distribute communion to the people outside.}* Communion inside will be at the usual time during the Mass.

=====

The bulletin is purposefully set up to arrive in your inboxes *early* on Saturday morning. **There is one FINAL training session on Saturday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the church.** If you are in good health, are under 60 years of age, and would like to volunteer to help the parish with reopening the church, please come to this session. **We are still in need of people willing to usher, greet, and clean the common areas of the church, and those church pews where someone has been seated.**

=====

Additionally, there are a few main points everyone should be aware of:

No one should leave their missalette (or any other worship aids) in the pew after Mass

Please leave the kneeler down to signify to the cleaning crew that the pew will need to be wiped down and re-sanitized

Continue to wear your face covering or mask until you leave the church

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Our Lady of the Cenacle Chapel Extended Eucharistic Adoration

*"...In this world I cannot see the Most High Son
of God with my own eyes, except for His Most
Holy Body and Blood."*

~ Saint Francis of Assisi

Pray that our Chapel may soon reopen
so that we may once again fall down in
Adoration of Our Blessed Lord exposed in
the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Chapel Coordinator, Karen Brandner
1-815-915-6635



\$\$\$ DAILY DOLLAR WINNERS \$\$\$

Sat. July 04	1186	500.00	Sam & Sabrina Vercimak
Sun. July 05	3254	50.00	Vincent Bruno
Mon. July 06	974	100.00	Ron & Vickie Pohar
Tue. July 07	3245	50.00	Peri Holland
Wed. July 08	458	50.00	Katherine Funfsinn
Thur. July 09	2872	50.00	Betty Bohn
Fri. July 10	665	50.00	Lynn O'Sadnick

The 2020 Daily Dollars are here!
A chance to win money and help our school!

SUPPORT YOUR GENEROUS ADVERTISERS! ! !
They make our bulletin possible.

GUILFOYLE & STEVENSON LLP

Attorneys at Law

Michael S. Guilfoyle • Kathleen M. Stevenson

1316 Meriden Street • Mendota, IL 61342

815-539-6711

General Practice Including

Real Estate • Wills Trusts Probate • Estate Planning • Elder Law • Personal Injury

THE SUNDAY COLLECTION

	For the Week of	
Sunday	07/05/2020	\$6,345.47
School		127.00
Food Pantry		102.00
Peter's Pence		35.00
Youth Ministry		42.00
Total		\$6,651.47

Give God what is just, not what is left!

Support Your Parish

Even though we are not able
to attend Mass to worship to-
gether in community, our par-
ish still needs our financial
support.



You can make donations to the parish online through
the diocesan website:

<https://cdop.weshareonline.org/ws/opportunities/parishes>

You can create recurring donations taken from your
credit card, or make a one time donation.

Please know that you may also drop your parish dona-
tion envelope with your donation through the mail slot
on the front door of the rectory. The money will still
be counted and accounted for. The Business Manager
is still going into the office briefly each day to take care
of the mail and make sure all the bills are being paid,
so any money supporting the parish will also be able
to be deposited into the parish's bank account.

**** We are once again able to include the weekly
offering tabulations in the bulletin. We will try to
keep our bulletin up to date with the parish con-
tributions going forward.**



**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
COUNCIL 2090**

SWEET CORN SALES!

**SATURDAY, JULY 25TH
AND SATURDAY AUGUST 1ST.**

**C'MON OUT AND BUY SOME FRESH-PICKED
SWEET CORN AND HELP A VERY WORTHY
ORGANIZATION—AND CAUSE!**



Our Devotion for July is The Most Precious Blood of Jesus

By Brian Smith

Back in the Middle Ages, many Catholics began observing special devotions around a particular theme each month—the [Holy Name of Jesus in January, for instance](#). Today, many families are reviving this practice as part of the way they observe the liturgical calendar at home.



By practicing monthly devotions, the core values of the faith will become more alive within your family. The beauty of monthly devotions is that there is no set way to celebrate. So, be creative, make it fun, and adapt your celebration to your own family.

Here are some ways to celebrate the popular devotion for July, the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

Talking with Kids about the Most Precious Blood of Jesus

Each of us has blood that flows through our body. Blood allows our body to work as God intended. Without blood we cannot run outside, play with our favorite toys, or even breathe! Blood, then, is what allows us to live each day to the fullest. Without blood, we could not live.

Jesus desperately wants us to spend eternity in heaven. When we sin, we turn our backs to God. This makes God sad. And so, to redeem us in the eyes of God, Jesus chose to shed his own blood as a sacrifice for our sins! Jesus wants us to go to heaven so much that he was willing to suffer a long and harsh death. Jesus shed his blood seven times during his life for us:

1. The Presentation of the Lord (Jesus was circumcised)
2. The Agony in the Garden (Jesus' sweat turned into blood)
3. The Scourging at the Pillar (Jesus was whipped)
4. The Crowning of Thorns (thorns were pressed into Jesus' head)
5. The Way of the Cross (onlookers punched and kicked Jesus)
6. The Crucifixion (Jesus is nailed to the cross)
7. The Piercing of His Heart (a soldier placed his sword through Jesus' side, causing all of Jesus' blood to spill out upon the ground)

As Catholics, we recognize all of Jesus' suffering and believe that he truly died for us in hope that we might go to heaven one day. Just because Jesus died for our sins does not mean that we can live and do whatever we want. Every day, we must try to be pleasing to God. This includes our thoughts, words, and actions. Sometimes we make mistakes. God invites us to the sacrament of reconciliation to amend our sins. When we recognize our sins, we are joined with the Precious Blood of Jesus as we promise to God that we will try to live a better life.

<https://teachingcatholickids.com/the-most-precious-blood-of-jesus-monthly-devotion-for-july/>

CHURCH SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE!

Zoom web address:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?pwd=RzZtRi8xNjltNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09)

[pwd=RzZtRi8xNjltNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9138050856?pwd=RzZtRi8xNjltNHg4dnhNb2MzNzBEUT09)

Zoom Meeting ID 913 805 0856

Password 811195

Sun: 9:00 a.m. Mass in the church, with communion overflow in parking lot with communion distributed to parking lot attendees after Mass.

12:00 noon Mass with all the same as above.

2:00 p.m. Adoration in the church and via Zoom

3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet in the church

3:15 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Mon: 8:00 a.m. Mass in the church

9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Tues: 7:00 a.m. Mass in the church

9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Wed: 8:00 a.m. Mass in the church

9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Confession by garage

6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

Thur: 7:00 a.m. Mass in the church

9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Confession by garage

6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

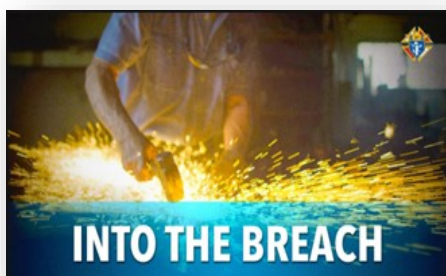
CHURCH SCHEDULE CONTINUED..

- Fri:** 8:00 a.m. Mass in the church
 9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
 6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
- Sat:** 9:00 a.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru
 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Confession by garage
 4:00 p.m. Mass in the church, with communion overflow in parking lot with communion distributed to parking lot attendees after Mass.
 6:00 p.m. Distribution of Communion drive thru

To recap, ALL Masses are moving back into the church, and if there is an overflow of the Saturday afternoon or Sunday Masses people may still participate from the parking lot and receive the Eucharist after. Daily Masses will also be moving back into the church, and social distancing must be practiced at all times. Masks or face coverings must be worn while in the church. If you occupy a pew, please leave the kneeler down to signify to the cleaning crew that the pew needs to be cleaned.



MENDOTA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 2090



Into the Breach is a groundbreaking 12-episode video series from the Knights of Columbus that seeks to answer what it means to be a Catholic man in today's world. Inspired by Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted's apostolic exhortation to Catholic men, Into the Breach tells men they are made for greatness and challenges them to achieve it by founding their lives on God and pursuing heroic virtue. Each episode explores a different aspect of authentic Catholic masculinity and features well-known Catholic speakers, as well as the personal story of a man who has deeply experienced the episode's topic in his own life. Speakers include Dr. Scott Hahn, Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jason Evert and many others. The episodes can be used for individual personal enrichment and for group discussion. *"This is a must see series!"*

Into The Breach can be seen at [formed.org](https://www.formed.org)

CONFESSION OFFERED

Confessions are held on Wednesdays from 12 p.m.—1 p.m. and on Thursday from 5 pm—6 pm in front of Father's garage.

****Confession will also be available on Saturdays beginning July 11, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the garage.**

Please follow the signs as they will direct you.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION OFFERED

While confessions will remain outside for the time being, Father will bring the Monstrance with exposed Blessed Sacrament back into the church for Eucharistic Adoration. People will once again be able to worship and adore our Lord from inside the church from a socially distanced pew. Father will continue to live-feed Adoration via the Zoom app. The Adoration is scheduled from 2:00—3:00 p.m. every Sunday.



...AND DIVINE MERCY



Father will lead the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, following the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

These additional devotions will be every Sunday for the foreseeable future.

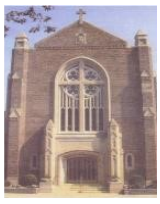
FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK



33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY

Stage 1 of the Hearts Afire Parish-based Program offers individuals a quick and easy way to withdraw from the demands of daily life and enter into a peaceful interior reflection on their relationship with Christ in the context of Marian devotion.

**SIGN UP FOR FREE AT
[FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP](https://formed.org/signup)**



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER



“Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

Matthew 13:9

WE ARE IN FARM COUNTRY and so today's reading should ring a certain way in the ears of many parishioners. What farmer goes out and purchases seed for his fields and then haphazardly and carelessly scatters that seed? When a farmer—or even the local gardener—hears this parable, do his—or hers—ears perk up and cause him to wonder about the sower's carelessness with his seed?

The sower in the parable lets his seed be scattered on the path, (for us, that could well mean the sidewalk), rocky ground (where it has almost zero chance of taking root at all), among the thorns, and finally he casts some seed on fertile ground where it produces a magnificent yield.

For a first century Jew hearing this parable, he would have likely known that a yield of 10 percent would have been a marvelous return. So to hear of a careless farmer who ends up reaping a yield that is 30, 60, or 100 fold in return is rather mind boggling.

When the disciples hear this they ask Jesus why he is teaching the crowds using parable. He explains to them that Isaiah did the same, and he is merely fulfilling that prophecy. He softens the teaching just a bit by explaining that they have him, that is, the disciples have Jesus, while the people who comprise these crowds do not. At least not to the same extent as the close followers of Jesus. He is teaching them right then and there what the rest of the crowds are not hearing. The people have heard the parable, but the disciples have had it explained to them.

Now let's consider some practical lessons for today from this parable. As Jesus explains it, it's fairly easy to understand his meaning when he is the sower. The seed represents the word of Christ—and remember, his coming was a reconciliation, a bringing together, of the prophets and the law. Think of his Transfiguration on Mount Tabor when he conversed with Moses and Elijah.

Fulfilling prophecies would be somewhat commonplace for Jesus in his public ministry. As he says in this passage however, let those who have ears hear these lessons. Echoing the words of Isaiah, Jesus reminds his disciples that people will hear, yet not understand; look, but still not see.

If you look at the world around us, what do you see? It's on the lips of nearly every member of society how crazy it seems the world has gone. There is so much division in every sector; families are divided, friends become former friends because they no longer see eye-to-eye on the things they deem to be more important than their friendship.

“Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.”

Saint Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

We are Christians, or at least we are supposed to be! This means our minds and hearts should be set with a view to eternity, and not overly concerned about the things of the world. The enemy likes nothing better than to have the world become our focus. When we are concerned with what's going on around us, we can't really sift through the noise that blocks out that still-small voice that speaks to our hearts. We go from fire to fire trying to put out every little fire that flares up. These fires are not of God, they are of the world.

Why then, do we find it so difficult to even yearn for the peace that only God can provide? We struggle to be known, to have a name, perhaps even notoriety so we can feel like we're leaving some sort of mark in the world, a legacy we can point to in the afterlife.

What kind of sense does that make? If it be God's will and we make it to heaven, we will be so awestruck by the very presence of God that whatever happened to us will pale to the point that if we even give it a thought, it will be to wonder why we worried so about anything *of the world*. God has graced us with eyes and ears now, so let us use them. Let us see what is truly important for the well-being of our eternal souls, and let us hear the words our Master speaks to our hearts so that we may have joy in this life, and eternal bliss in the next.

July 12, 2020

Holy Cross News of Note



**If you haven't taken
advantage of the parish
subscription to Formed,
you're missing out!**

If you have not checked out the *new* FORMED.org website, we strongly encourage you to do so. It is chock-full of great videos, movies, eBooks and audio books, Bible studies, talks, and so much more!

All you need to do now is go to: [Formed.org](https://www.formed.org) and register an account by clicking on "Sign Up," then select "I belong to a Parish or Organization," find our parish by name, or zip, enter your email address and you're in. It's that easy!

What can we recommend for this week?

33 DAYS TO MORNING GLORY



Stage 1 of the Hearts Afire Parish-based Program offers individuals a quick and easy way to withdraw from the demands of daily life and enter into a peaceful interior reflection on their relationship with Christ in the context of Marian devotion.

**SIGN UP FOR FREE AT
[FORMED.ORG/SIGNUP](https://www.formed.org/signup)**

Catechism Corner

» What is the plan of God for man? «

THESE Q & A ITEMS ARE ADDRESSING QUESTIONS
USING THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM:

† What is the plan of God for man?

God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. In the fullness of time, God the Father sent his Son as the Redeemer and Savior of mankind, fallen into sin, thus calling all into his Church and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, making them adopted children and heirs of his eternal happiness.

"You are great, O Lord, and greatly to be praised [...] You have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it rests in you." (Saint Augustine)

Further reading CCC ¶ [1–25]

† Why does man have a desire for God?

God himself, in creating man in his own image, has written upon his heart the desire to see him. Even if this desire is often ignored, God never ceases to draw man to himself because only in God will he find and live the fullness of truth and happiness for which he never stops searching. By nature and by vocation, therefore, man is a religious being, capable of entering into communion with God. This intimate and vital bond with God confers on man his fundamental dignity.

Further reading CCC ¶ [27–30, 44–45]

- ♦ At the doctor's office, a twenty-something man was trying to make an appointment for a Mrs. Brown. Try as he might, he just could not remember her first name. Frustrated, he left. A few minutes later, I passed him outside the office on the phone.
"Hey, Dad," he said, "what's Mom's first name?"
- ♦ A friend was due to give birth around the same time that her oldest daughter was due to give birth to her first baby. On the morning my friend went into labor, I happened to drive by her house, wondering what she'd had. A sign on the front porch gave me my answer: "It's an Uncle!"
- ♦ Parenting is like being a juggler except all the balls are screaming.

Reader's Digest, February 2020—Life in These United States



Religious Education

*Religious Education
is Changing!*

With the upheaval in routine that the Novel Coronavirus has caused, it has necessitated a change in how we approach the religious education of the children of our parish.

It is most unlikely that we will be using the school for our Wednesday night classes, and will most likely be changing our program to one that is focused on the family and utilizes remote, or an "eLearning" style of catechesis. All parish families will need to have access to the internet and a computer or tablet to participate in each lesson.

This will also necessarily bring about great change, but should also allow for much more flexibility as the lion's share of the catechesis will take place in the home rather than in the school classroom.

As this is a major change and will be a bigger expense up front, it will be critically important for families to register their children as soon as possible. There is a registration form included with this bulletin—please complete the form and turn it in to the parish office as soon as possible. It is vitally important that we know the number of families and students before the school year begins.

A final decision on the program we will use has not yet been made. We will be communicating more information as we continue to determine which program curriculum we will be using and what it will

mean for each family. We ask for your prayers and patience as we work through this difficult process.

I do anticipate that for this first year, we will continue using the same sacramental preparation curricula for First Reconciliation/Eucharist and Confirmation. It will just be of a more remote style of disseminating the lessons.

There will be more information to come in that regard as well.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Corrigan at:

briancorriganhcdre@gmail.com.

Jesus Christ, when you walked the earth, you travelled through the countryside through towns and villages: curing every disease and illness among the people." At your command, all who approached you in illness were made well, made whole.

Now Lord, we implore you to blanket out world with your love and your healing presence. Open the heart of all to turn back to you in their hearts and seek you in all things.

We pray that for all who have been infected and affected by the Coronavirus may find their strength in you. For those who have died, may they find their rest in you.

Guide the leaders of all nations to work together for the family of man, working to help all in need out of a love for all mankind. Give grace, courage and strength to all medical professionals who put their well-being in harms way for the sake of others.

We pray for your guidance through the waters of uncertainty and for a sense of your presence as we place our trust in you.

Gracious God and Father, may this crisis bring your healing presence to a wounded world, so that mentally, spiritually, and physically we may return to you in ALL things.

Amen.



**The Parishes of
Holy Cross, Mendota
and SS. Peter & Paul, Peterstown
Confraternity of Christian Doctrine**



Religious Education—Registration Form

This information is held in confidence and is not shared without your permission.

Today's Date: _____

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Grade School Level: _____ Name of School: _____

Baptism Date: _____ Church: _____

Has the child received First Communion? _____ Yes _____ No

Does your child have any food allergies? _____ Yes _____ No

Price Structure

1 Child	\$125
2 Children	\$200
3 or More Children	\$250

If a child was not baptized at either Holy Cross Parish, or SS. Peter & Paul Parish, please obtain a Baptismal Certificate from the parish in which they were baptized and provide to Holy Cross Parish Office.

Child resides with both parents? _____ Yes _____ Mother Only _____ Father Only

Father's Name: _____ Religion: _____

Mother's Name: _____ Religion: _____

Family Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

In Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone Number: _____ Relationship: _____

Would you be interested in helping in the religious education program?

_____ Y _____ N

If "Yes," I would be interested in helping as a Teacher: _____ Teacher's Assistant: _____

Parent Patrol: _____

If filling out form outside of parish office, please complete and mail or drop off to:

Holy Cross Catholic Church
Attn: Brian Corrigan, DRE
1010 Jefferson Street
Mendota, IL. 61342



**Las Parroquias de
Holy Cross, Mendota
y SS. Peter & Paul, Peterstown
Cofradía de la Doctrina Cristiana**



Educación Religiosa—Forma de Registro

Esta información es retenida en confidencia y no es compartida sin su permiso.

Fecha de Hoy: _____

Nombre de Hijo(a): _____ Fecha de nacimiento: _____

Grado escolar: _____ Nombre de escuela: _____

Fecha de Bautismo: _____ Iglesia: _____

¿Recibió el niño(a) su Primera Comunión? _____ Sí _____ No

¿Su niño tiene alergias a los alimentos? _____ Sí _____ No

Precio

1 Niño/a	\$125
2 Niños	\$200
3 o más Niños	\$250

Si su hijo(a) no fue bautizado en las parroquias de Holy Cross o SS. Peter & Paul, por favor obtenga el certificado de bautizo de la parroquia en la cual fue bautizado y tráigala a la oficina de Holy Cross.

¿El niño(a) vive con los dos papás? _____ Sí _____ Vive con Mamá _____ Vive con Papá _____

Nombre de Padre: _____ Religión: _____

Nombre de Madre: _____ Religión: _____

Domicilio de Familia _____

Ciudad: _____ Estado: _____ Cód. Postal: _____

Teléfono de día: _____ Teléfono de tarde: _____

Celular: _____ Correo electrónico: _____

Contacto de Emergencia: _____

Teléfono de contacto de emergencia: _____ Parentesco: _____

¿Le interesa ayudar al programa de educación religiosa?

_____ Sí _____ No

Si "Sí" me gustaría ayudar en forma de Maestro(a): _____ Asistente de Maestro(a): _____

Patrulla de los Padres: _____

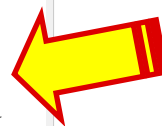
Si llena esta forma fuera de la oficina parroquial, por favor envíe o deje en la oficina de: Holy Cross Catholic Church
Attn: Brian Corrigan, DRE
1010 Jefferson Street
Mendota, IL. 61342

WARNING ABOUT RISK ASSUMED BY PARISHIONERS:

While our parish staffs will attempt to take appropriate precautions consistent with the advice of public health authorities, parishioners and guests should understand that they assume the risk of contracting COVID-19 anytime they enter a public space since such precautions do not eliminate the risk of infection.

For Daily Mass Seating and Cleaning

To MINIMIZE the daily cleaning of pews that will be re-used by the same household during the week (Monday thru Friday). Fold this paper marker and place on the top outer edge of the pew indicating it has been used and that you may return before Saturday. Please REMOVE the marker on Friday and take it with you to be reused the following week. Leave the marker even if you unexpectedly do not return, the pew will be cleaned every Friday. Cleaning volunteers will sanitize pews for the weekend Mass scheduled. Announcements for funeral Mass or special liturgies will require removing the marker for pre event cleaning as needed. Unclaimed markers on Friday will be collected and placed in a box for reuse the following week, or take a new marker for your pew. Continue to leave the kneeler down while your family marker is in place as a sign that it is in use and has not been cleaned.



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FOLD HERE

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PEW USED BY

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HOW THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED THE WORLD

Sign of Beauty, Sign of Glory

Anthony Esolen

WELL WAS IT CALLED THE PLACE OF THE SKULL. Gray-white limestone, rugged and creased, barren of life, you would suppose; but for the stunted pines at the base, the wild grasses with no name, a deep blue iris here and there poking out bravely from the vertical face, and the coo of doves nesting in the clefts of the rock.

An old woman hobbled up the stony way to the bald top of the hill, leaning upon a stick. She was dressed in grave simplicity, but the cortege of soldiers gave witness that she was a lady of importance. "Augusta," said an old man, darting a glance from side to side, expecting to catch sight of someone in the shadows, "this is the place."

"You are not lying to us?"

"I am in fear of my life, Augusta."

"You will not betray the Lord, Judas?"

"*Domina*, I did not name myself. This is the place."



The old woman looked about. Nearby stood a temple that Hadrian, emperor of Rome two hundred years past, had built, as if in scorn of the love that here was made manifest, here and nowhere else. It was a temple to the goddess of love, Aphrodite. "Our people have known of the place and kept it secret," said Judas. "It is here, buried under earth and stones."

"We shall see," said the old woman, and she raised her cane toward the soldiers. They were carrying picks and shovels. "Dig here," she said.

■ NOTHING BUT SKULLS ■

The old woman had seen much in her time. She was but a girl, helping her father work the busy inn he kept in the old city by the gulf; shipmen and camel drovers, day after day, barbarians to the north, pagans all round, and Christians, those strange people, trying to honor their Lord in peace, yet willing to die for him when the persecutions came.

One day he showed up, Constantius the military commander, nicknamed the Paleface, the man she honored and loved. Husband and wife then went west, to live not in palaces but in camps along the Danube and the cold Rhine, keeping the Germans on the far side. She had seen many a man die on a cross. She bore an only son to him, named Little Constantius, that is, Constantius.

So long ago it was. Constantius was true and not true to his name. He was constant in his love for the empire, constant in courage, constant in just administration of the laws. He was fair to Christians when such fairness was frowned upon. And he was constant in ambition, so when the chance came for him to be named praetorian prefect of the West, he took it, and abandoned his wife, marrying the daughter of the co-emperor Maxentius.

Constantius became emperor himself, but he would not wear that title long, dying in York after victories against the men with the painted bellies—the Picts. His wife herself had lived for a long time in that faraway island, Britain, in the company of her son. He too was a fighter, and an ambitious man.

Oh, the emperors, they come and go, she thought. She had seen enough of them for one lifetime. Hadrian too, he came and went.

"Nothing but rubble so far, *Domina*," said the centurion. "Rubble and skulls."

"Let the skulls be. We are searching for life, not death. Keep digging."

So they did.

■ IN THIS SIGN YOU SHALL CONQUER ■

Who rules the world?

She saw in her mind's eye the great Diocletian, whom she had known. In his late years, people said that you had to lie on your face when you approached him, calling him *Dominus et Deus*, as if he were some god our of the god-besotted East.

She smiled and shook her head. The man himself did not believe a bit of it. All stage, all show. He enjoyed governing, which he was remarkably good at, and gardening also. In his old age he gave up the former so he could better enjoy the latter. Before that, his underling had persuaded him to persecute the Christians, which he did, as he did all things, with real efficiency.

"Artichokes would have been better," she said to herself.

"*Domina?*"

"Ah, centurion, I was thinking about an emperor. Anything yet?"

"Rubble is all."

"Almost all," she said.



Rubble was what they left of the church in her father's city. By then she was in Britain with Constantius. She was making her deliberate way toward Christ. She had seen too much of the world to be hasty. A Greek philosopher could oil the world with his words; and oil meant money and power. Augustus and Rome were god and goddess, and they were nothing without money and power. Christ was not only different. He was that whole world turned upside down.

"Mother," said Constantius one day, "I have had a dream."

They were outside of Rome, and her son was fighting for control over the west. Mother and son had been nudging one another along the Christian way. He told her the dream. It was of a shining cross in the heavens, with the words *en Toutoi Nika*. In this, be victorious.

"It is a sign of shame," he said. "A scandal to the Jews, and folly to the Greeks," said she.

"Death and defeat," he said.

"Life and victory."

"What does it mean?" he said.

"It means that the world is not ruled as men have thought."

"I shall have my men bear this sign upon our banners."

The dream indeed came true. And she, Helena, the humble daughter of an innkeeper, became Augusta, the most powerful woman in the world.

"*Lignum, lignum!*" cried the soldiers. "The wood of life," said she.

■ HOW CAN WE TELL? ■

Helena could have spent her later years as Diocletian did, gardening, and enjoying the wealth of an empress. Or that was what she did, in fact. She enjoyed that wealth by giving it away, endowing and planting churches wherever she went, in Rome and Trier and now in Palestine.

She took a gold coin from the fold of her garment. She looked at it with an old woman's ironic eye. "I haven't looked like that in many years," she thought, seeing her stamped bust upon it, with full cheeks and braided hair and a coronet. "Augusta," it read, while on the reverse stood an allegory of Security, holding an olive branch. No security but in Christ, she thought.

"Augusta," said the centurion, as if short of breath. "We have found three of them. Three posts and three beams."

The old woman hobbled to the edge of the cavity, fell to her knees, and peered down. Five or six sweating men, stripped to the waist, looked up at her, holding their picks upright and backing away, in dread, from the planks. For a few moments no one said a word. A dove cooed from the rocks above.

"How can we tell?"

Helena turned about. "Judas?" she cried.

The old Jewish man stood near.

"Do you know which one it is?"

"No, Augusta. But," he said, with all the courage he could muster, "I know a woman who is dying of typhus. Perhaps...." But the empress interrupted him. "Bring her here!"

That was how they knew they had found the true cross of Christ, when the dying woman was cured. This Judas did not go and hang himself from a tree. He did not ask for thirty pieces of silver for his services. He was baptized, and took the name Kyriakos (Latin *Cyriacus*) meaning "Belonging to the Lord."

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Helena built a chapel nearby, and several other great churches in the Holy Land. For many years, the bulk of the cross stood there. But as soon as it was found, relics were sent round the Christian world for veneration. Scoffers say that if all the relics of the cross were gathered up, it would be as big as a battleship. That is complete nonsense. One scholar has estimated that the bulk of all the relics would amount to about one-fortieth of a cross of pine wood weighing a hundred and fifty pounds. This how light a splinter is, and how a thousand of those put together would still be as light as a few feathers.



■ THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN ■

In 313, Constantine gave legal recognition to the Christian faith, and in 380 Theodosius made it the official religion of the empire. "My Kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus, but did that mean that man's pursuit of the common good in this life was to have nothing to do with his pursuit of the ultimate good, the vision of God in the

communion of saints? After the son of Saint Helena, Christian missionaries could freely go to the ends of the earth, as Jesus had commanded, baptizing all nations in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Then it was that Europe as we know it was born. And slowly, slowly, into dull and muddle-headed man, came the idea that power was manifest in meekness, strength in love, and life in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Anthony Esolen is professor and writer-in-residence at Magdalen College in N. H., translator and editor of Dante's *Divine Comedy* (Random House), and author of *How the Church Has Changed the World* (MAGNIFICAT).

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† Please pray for a Parishioner who has Stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer, which has metastasized to Liver and Lungs. Pray for Courage, Strength, and Peace for Patient and Family.



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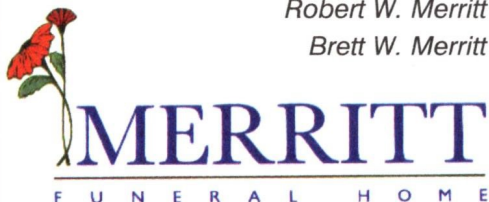
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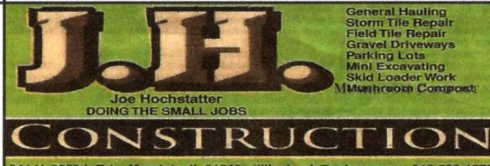
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