



From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of the Church. Each number in the carol stands for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The **partridge in a pear tree** was Jesus Christ.
- The **Two turtle doves** were the Old and New Testaments.
- The **Three French hens** stood for Faith, Hope and Charity.
- The **four calling birds** were the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- The **five golden rings** recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament, the Pentateuch.
- The **six geese a-laying** stood for the six days of Creation.
- The **Seven swans a-swimming** represented the sevenfold Gifts of the Holy Spirit—Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord.
- The **eight maids a-milking** were the eight Beatitudes.
- The **Nine ladies dancing** were the nine of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love (Charity), Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.
- The **ten lords a-leaping** were the Ten Commandments.
- The **eleven pipers piping** stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The **twelve drummers drumming** symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Merry (Twelve Days of) Christmas Everyone!
(Started Christmas Eve)

FIRST PENANCE MEETING: At least one parent of each student receiving First Penance in 2010 is asked to attend the Parents' Meeting on Thursday, January 14th, at 7:00 PM in the school library. Our parish students will receive First Penance on Saturday, March 6th.

SAVE THE DATE: Our Second Annual Holy Cross Parish Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 20, 2010, at Georgetown Prep. Father John Davis, O.P., will lead the retreat. Details to come.



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: There will be no exposition of the Blessed Sacrament this week between Christmas and New Years. You are still welcome, however, to make a visit whenever you wish.

A big "Thank You" to all who made themselves available at our information table after the Masses last weekend. Five parishioners signed on new as weekly adorers or as substitutes. We are still looking for more weekly adorers. Call Dave and Barb Ruppert to choose an hour: 301 933-7646.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Why not make a resolution that helps your budget and Holy Cross Parish? Buy gift cards for Shoppers Food, Grosvenor Market, Safeway, Giant and Macy's from Holy Cross. Certificates may be purchased in Lewis Hall after each weekend Mass. You can buy them using cash, your personal check, Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit cards. School parents participate through the school program where orders are filled every Thursday. When you purchase these gift certificates/gift cards, the Parish earns a percent of the card value without costing you one penny more for your purchases.



Still doing after-Christmas shopping? We sell **MACY'S** gift cards in \$25 denominations!



The Bible Timeline, The Story of Salvation is coming to a church near you...Holy Cross! This is a series of 24 video presentations along with Scripture reading and discussion which will take us through the narrative books of the Bible. If you are interested and would like to suggest a time convenient for you please call, Barb Ruppert, 301-933-7646. The series will be offered over the course of the year.

Mature lady with moral values is looking for a place to live in exchange for companionship or cleaning. Please call Luz 301-789-3888.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2010, the Solemnity of **Mary, Mother of God**, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Please join us in celebrating Mass at 9 AM, 10:30 AM or 12 Noon.

Thank You to those who work unnoticed behind the scene: Each week a team of two women from the altar society change the altar linens, wash and iron the linens, dust the sanctuary, clean the sacred vessels, and clean the sacristy. This Christmas season is an appropriate time to thank those who volunteer their services during the year.

Maintaining the Altar linens: Rosalia Murray and Fran Kleinhenz. Cleaning teams: Dottie O'Neill and Anne Martin, Rosanna Dundon and Josie Shore, Mary Ann Crespy and Beatriz Ferrario, Joan Murphy and Veronica Sauvain, Charlene Hubbard and Kathy Chamberlin. Thank you for all you do for God's house.



Preparing the Church for Christmas: Special thanks to Rosanna Dundon and Rosalia Murray for arranging the beautiful flowers in the sanctuary and the festive greenery in the vestibule, and to Fran Kleinhenz, who gives special attention to our beautiful creche. Listed are the women who volunteered to decorate our church with garland, wreaths and window boughs: Mary Ann Crespy, Barbara Desiderati, Charlene Hubbard, Beatriz Ferrario, Fran Kleinhenz, Dottie O'Neill, Nancy Perez, Veronica Sauvain and Josie Shore. Special appreciation to Don Thompson and Raul Alphonso who erected the crèche, decorated the Christmas trees in the sanctuary, hung the wreaths and aided the woman in so many ways. **Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to everyone.**

21st Annual Giving Tree Report:

Once again, Holy Cross Parishioners outdid themselves in thoughtfulness and generosity. All six hundred tags were taken and the abundance of gifts was a visible sign of the true Spirit of Christmas.

On December 13th over forty volunteers sorted, bagged and delivered the gifts to eight organizations. Amazingly this was all accomplished in less than two hours.

May you have a Very Blessed Christmas knowing that you have brought joy to so many.

**Gratefully,
Holy Cross
Social Concerns Committee**

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

27 SUNDAY	Holy Family
10:15 AM -- 11:30 AM:	NO SOR Classes (<i>school</i>)
28 MONDAY	HOLY INNOCENTS
7:00 PM -- 8:30 PM:	NO St. John Bible Study (<i>Quinn Hall</i>)
29 TUESDAY	St. Thomas Becket
9:00 AM -- 11:00 PM:	No Eucharistic Adoration (<i>Quinn Hall</i>)
30 WEDNESDAY	6th day in Octave of Christmas
9:00 AM -- 11:00 PM:	No Eucharistic Adoration (<i>Quinn Hall</i>)
7:00 PM -- 8:30 PM:	NO RCIA
31 THURSDAY	Pope Silvester I
9:00 AM -- 11:00 PM:	No Eucharistic Adoration (<i>Quinn Hall</i>)
1 FRIDAY	Mary, Mother of God(Oblig.)
2 SATURDAY	St. Basil & St. Gregory Nazianzen
9:00 AM:	Confessions
3 SUNDAY	The Epiphany of the Lord

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Monday, December 28, 2009

6:45 AM	Robert Emmet Mulcahy	8:30 AM	Betty Finn
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Tuesday, December 29, 2009

6:45 AM	Frances Duffy	8:30 AM	Fr. Robert Cortes (L)
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Wednesday, December 30, 2009

6:45 AM	Geneveive Ann Deikel	8:30 AM	Zelaya-Quesada Family
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Thursday, December 31, 2009

6:45 AM	Edward McCouch	8:30 AM	Intentions of the Masucci Family
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Friday, January 1, 2010

9:00 AM	Gloria Tappero Lepak	10:30 AM	Mary Stuart (L)
12:00 PM	Marianne Joly (L)		

Saturday, January 2, 2010

8:30 AM	In Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
5:00 PM	Franklin Burch

Sunday, January 3, 2010

7:30 AM	People of Holy Cross
9:00 AM	Lupi Espinosa
10:30 AM	Mary Angela Memmo
12:00 PM	Robert Gosselin

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Virginia Burch; M. Carrio; Thomas & Young Choi; Michael Downey; J. Anthony English; Michael Gouzoulis; Arline Hart; Msgr. Hill, Marianne Joly; Renee Lucas; Anthony Paige; Bill Quinlan; Bonnie Riddenhower; Maxine Saur; Judith Winslow; Edward Wright

Schedule for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion to serve 1st Weekend 1/02/10 & 1/03/10

5:00 PM	Jim Scanlon and/or Colleen Scanlon
7:30 AM	Stephan Beauchesne
9:00 AM	Yolaine Watkins and/or Don Watkins
10:30 AM	Charlene Hubbard and/or Mary Jo Ibanes
12:00 PM	Jennifer Ivory and/or Maureen Tobin