



Holy Cross

# Connections



## Merry Christmas!



*M*y dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

During the first months of his pontificate, Pope Francis has repeatedly emphasized compassion, reconciliation and mercy as major themes of his ministry: “I see clearly that the thing the Church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful. It needs nearness and proximity: I see the Church as a field hospital after battle.”

I sincerely hope that this Christmas season will provide opportunities for healing the wounds of sin and division in our families and in our world. Christ comes to us and through us to replace the walls that divide us with bridges that unite.

During Advent and Christmas we gather to celebrate the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. We open our minds and hearts to receive the priceless Christmas gifts of God’s mercy, compassion and healing. The Light of Christ overcomes the darkness of sin and evil.

In Reconciliation the wounds of our sins are healed. In the Eucharist, the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation satisfy the deepest hungers of our hearts.

Pope Francis continues: “We need to proclaim the Gospel on every street corner...preaching the Good News

*See Fr. Jerry’s letter pg. 2*



of the Kingdom and healing, even with our preaching, every kind of disease and wound.”

As we give and receive the Christmas gifts of God's presence among us in the sacraments, we thank God for the compassion and mercy that restore our relationships with God and each other. We pray for each other as we wholeheartedly sing: JOY TO THE WORLD THE LORD HAS COME!

Devotedly yours in Christ, Father Jerry Stluka - Pastor



### *Dates to Remember*

Sunday, December 8 ..... Deanery One Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Augustiine/Gabriel – 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 24..... Christmas Eve Mass – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25 ..... Christmas Day Mass – 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 29 ..... Feast of the Holy Family  
Open House after both Masses

Wednesday, January 1 ..... Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God  
Holy Day of Obligation – 11:30 a.m. Mass

Sunday, January 5 ..... Epiphany of the Lord  
..... Cum Christo community celebrating  
50th Anniversary at Holy Cross – 2:30 p.m. Mass

# A Capsule History of Holy Cross Parish

by Raymond Kiersh

Summarized from Historical Notes by Msgr. Joseph Hakel

## Installment 1



pray that you too enjoy the historical significance of Holy Cross.

Our parish, founded in 1833, was originally named St. Remigius Parish after the great apostle of the French. He was chosen as Bishop of Rheims at the age of 22; he died in 533 after 74 years of service in the Episcopacy, the longest on record.

Fr. Josue Young, pastor in Lancaster, Ohio had missions in Columbus, Logan, Delaware and Marion that he visited once a month. Just imagine traveling by horseback or buggy in Ohio weather. In the spring of 1842, Fr. Young decided to move to Columbus if the congregation would build him a rectory. A small frame house was completed in April, 1843.

St. Remigius Parish was primarily made up of German immigrants; Fr. Young could not speak German so he requested and received a German assistant, Fr. William Schonaut. Fr. Schonaut became the first resident pastor of St. Remigius. This allowed Fr. Young to continue his pastoral and missionary work until 1853.

Fr. Schonaut established a school in 1843 which was the first parochial school in Columbus. The school had one teacher, Mr. Dengler. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur began teaching in 1856; in 1872 the Brothers of

Mary joined the teaching staff. Between 1878 and 1889 the school had an enrollment of 300 and grew to 450 in 1890. The school building, which now is home to Cum Christo and St. Lawrence Haven was erected in 1871. Enrollment dwindled in twentieth century to a low of 25. The last eighth grade graduation took place on June 4, 1961.

Although founded in 1833, construction of St. Remigius Church was not started until 1835 under the direction of Most Reverend Bishop John Baptist Purcell. In 1838 a small stone church at the northeast corner of Fifth and Rich Sts. was completed and occupied while still unplastered, unpainted and without seating. The parish continued to grow and by 1844 was sorely in need of a larger church. To accommodate the larger church Fr. Schonaut requested permission to buy the lot just east of

“At the time of the dedication there were 900 parishioners...”

– Raymond Kiersh

the church. The lot was purchased from Matthew and Lucy Gilbert for \$600.00 and doubled the area of the church property. A building committee was elected by the congregation and

their plans for the new church were approved so construction could begin in the spring of 1845. The church was to be built in the Gothic style, a plain but substantial church, 115 feet long and 65 feet wide. The church was completed in late 1847 and dedicated to Almighty God as Holy Cross Church by Bishop Purcell and Pastor, William Shonaut on January 16, 1848. The first sermon was preached by Fr. James Wood. At the time of the dedication there were 900 parishioners and the church could seat about 400.

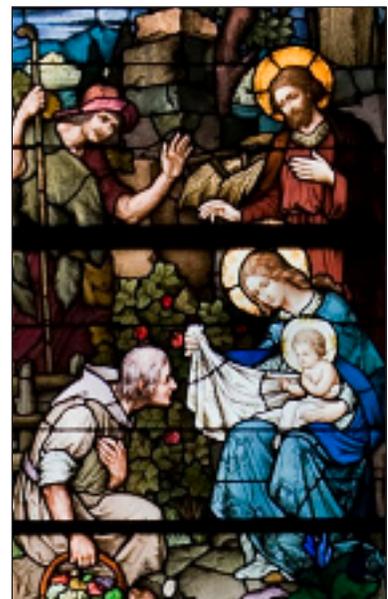
**NEXT:** Growth of Holy Cross leads to creation of St. Patrick Parish





Christmas Eve  
~ 2012 ~







HolyCrossCatholicChurch  
 204 S. Fifth St.  
 Columbus, OH 43215

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Columbus, OH 43218  
 Permit No. 293

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Holy Cross Connections**  
 Editor: Fr. Jerry Stuka  
 Associate Editor: Sr. Anne Keenan OP  
 Managing Editor: Jack Kustron  
 Layout and Design: Jan Kustron  
 Photography: Jack Kustron  
 Printing: Dee Printing

Every Sunday: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Every Friday: 11:00 a.m.

**Reconciliation**

11:30 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday

Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

**Liturgy Schedule**

Kelly Doman, Music Director

Deborah L. Matthews, Coordinator of Religious Education

Sister Anne Keenan, OP, Pastoral Associate

Rev. Fr. Jose Manickathan, in residence

Rev. Fr. Ramon Owera, in residence

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stuka, Pastor

**Parish Staff**

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Holy Cross Catholic Church

