



Holy Cross Connections



COME LIGHT OF THE WORLD!



By Father Jerry Stluka

As Christmas draws near, our faith enlightens our minds and hearts to see the Gift of God's presence among us.

As we behold the face of God in the face of each other, we give thanks and rejoice. From the altar I gaze upon our historic church full of faithful people I see the awesome reflection of the manger scene alive in the worshipping people who are Holy Cross Church.

The face of Christ shines through the faces of children and their parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents, faithful friends, loved ones all!

In the Eucharist families are reconciled.



Those who were estranged join hands & hearts, enemies begin to speak to one another. Walls of division crumble.

Vengeance gives way to forgiveness. In the light of Jesus darkness vanishes.

In the light of faith all are set free.

May the light of Christ coming this Christmas fill your hearts and homes with everlasting peace.

Come Lord Jesus!



Our Trip to Oberammagau by Jack Probasco

This Fall Father Stluka led a group of travelers to the Bavarian mountains in Germany and Austria. One main focus of the trip was to experience the powerful Passion Play recalling the life of Christ which is presented every ten years in Oberammergau. In addition, his travelling group was privileged to attend numerous Masses held at various historic churches throughout the region. He served Mass at magnificent Baroque churches such as the St. Johann Nepomuk located in downtown Munich and the quaint St. Radegund church located in a remote mountain valley, which was the parish church of the newly named Blessed Franz Jagerstatter.

While pilgrimage Masses were a highlight of the trip, time was also spent touring famous old Bavarian castles and well known tourist towns like Innsbruck, the European skiing capital, and Salzburg, the place providing the inspiration behind the film *The Sound of Music*. In Munich we all enjoyed participating in the world famous Oktoberfest with its variety of German foods and beer.

The travel group of forty-four people was from many parishes throughout the United States. A number were from local parishes

in Washington Court House or Lancaster. Representatives from Holy Cross Church included John Feher and Jack and Irene Probasco. Father Jan Sullivan also led the group.

Now Father Stluka is organizing a trip to the Balkan States in August 2011 which promises to be just as full of opportunities to pray and play!



Father Stluka, John Feher and Jack & Irene Probasco are seen in St. Peter and Paul Church, Oberammagau, Germany.

A Christmas tradition that I very much enjoy is from recent years rather than from my childhood. The essential part of it comes from my husband's family and I have embraced it wholeheartedly! It involves the making of pierogies for Christmas eve! We always do this together, using an old family recipe. I mix all the ingredients and then together, we assemble the pierogies individually. The dough is my specialty - it gets rolled out very thin. After I cut it into squares, Jack takes the filling (potatoe and cheese) and forms them into triangles. It is of the utmost importance that he do this properly or the filling will come out when they are boiled. To make the job more fun we always have carols playing and hot tea with a splash of Grand Marnier and of course it is a lengthy project so we end up drinking quite a bit of tea. The end result is pierogies served with a "sauce" of butter and onions and, you can be sure, they melt in your mouth!

– Jan Kustron

This will be my first Christmas without my dad, so I have been doing a lot of reminiscing about some of my fond Christmas memories with him... Growing up in the Cleveland area, it was always exciting to get to go downtown. Every year during the Christmas season, my parents would take all 6 of us kids downtown to the Higbee's store to get our pictures taken with Santa Claus. Afterwards, my dad would take the whole family out to dinner. This was usually the only time during the year where we'd get to eat at a "nice" restaurant and my mom and dad loved having us all together. We always looked forward to this since it was the kind of the beginning of the Christmas season for us. Thirty years later, my brothers and sisters still fondly look back on this annual Christmas tradition.

Every Christmas morning, my twin sister Mary Kate and I (we were the youngest) would wake up at 5 AM to see if Santa came. However, it was too early -- we couldn't open the presents until 6:30. So, we'd go into my sisters' room and my older sister Beth would read books to us. I swear that hour and a half lasted at least one year!

– Tom Walsh



Dates to Remember:

Sunday Dec. 12	Deanery Reconciliation Service at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Cross
Friday Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Mass at 4:00 p.m.
Saturday Dec. 25	Christmas Day Mass at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Dec. 26	Regular Sunday Schedule - Masses at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Jan. 2	Open House - Feast of the Holy Family after both Masses

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FYI – You can view back issues of Connections at www.holycrosscatholic.com

Parish Staff

Reverend Father Jerome D. Stluka, Pastor
Sister Anne Keenan, OP, Pastoral Associate
Michael P. Agriesti, Administrative Assistant

Liturgy Schedule

Sunday: 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.
11:30 a.m. Tuesday - Saturday

Confessions

Every Friday: 11:00 a.m.
Every Sunday: 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Cross Connections

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