

We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net
 Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (closed 12:15-1:00 PM)

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
 Pastor

Deacon Ralph Rivera
 Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Judith Pickel
 Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Michele Hahn
 Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Tricia Clarke
 Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Mary Anne Mc Culloch
 Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano
 Business Manager

Mr. Brian Reich
 Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein
 Youth Minister

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth
 Parish Secretary

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
 Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone
 Religious Education Secretary
 (hcreled@optonline.net)

Mrs. Barbara Shipman
 P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Mr. Roberto Maza
 Mr. Vincent Matula
 Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra
 Weekend Sacristan

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



March 21st/22nd

5:00 PM	Fr. Michael/Dcn. Ralph
8:00 AM	Fr. Michael/Dcn. Ralph
9:30 AM	Fr. Frank Eisele
11:30 AM	Fr. Frank

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of March 15th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Phil & Ronnie Graziouse (living)
Tue. Paddy Keegan
Wed. Ann Egan (living)
Thu. Phil DeNobrega

Saturday, March 21st, 5 PM Mass

Lucy Follo, James Eng, Steven Eith, Rita Pastolero,
 Ruben Vazquez Pintor

Sunday, March 22nd, Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Francis Fuimono, Alec Ross, Frank
 Perrino, Michele Ciampi, Walter
 Goldstein, Richard Brian McKenna
11:30 AM Shu Mei Strebel

Remembering Our Sick

Please pray for those in our parish who are sick,
 their families and caregivers:

Patricia Becker	George V. Daly
Manuela Diaz	Ann Egan
Phil Graziouse	Bob Grieco
Joseph Santamaria	Marlene Starr
Judy Viskupic	

Banns of Marriage Third Time



Alyssa Calia & Jonathan Nilsen

Scripture Readings for March 22, 2020



+ 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13
 + Ephesians 5:8-14
 + John 9:1-41

It's Been a Bumpy Lent, So Far

by Father Michael

In many ways this was a difficult week. I think all of us feel a bit weary and beat up from dealing with an overload of news and speculation about illness, the economy, and politics. One evening, the only thing I had the emotional energy to watch on TV was Gomer Pyle and Green Acres. Fear and worry can build on itself and become like a snowball rolling downhill with unchecked momentum. In particular, in moments like this we need to be grounded in the Lord. In one form or another, we are all praying for the difficult circumstances we face to subside. But, the deeper prayer is that we are called to trust and believe the Lord is with us, even in the midst of these difficult circumstances. Remember, the first Gospel we heard in this Lenten season spoke of the temptations of Jesus which were very real and had to be frightening for him. But, that passage ended with the reminder, "and angels ministered to him." The Lord offers us his strength, peace and comfort as well. Have hope!

An unexpected highlight I had this week was hearing confessions. I was asked to go to the Amber Court Assisted Living Facility on Lake Avenue (which technically is just beyond our boundaries). About a dozen of the residents ended up celebrating the Sacrament. It was a mutually uplifting experience. They were delighted to see a priest, but their holiness and wisdom was an inspiration to me. Moments of grace like this tend to keep the other worries and stuff of life in balance.

Our Lenten Mission continues on Monday evening. This week we welcome Fr. Jerry DiSpigno who will lead our evening entitled "Forgiveness in the Lord." There will be an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. If it has been a while since you have shared in the Sacrament, this may be a moment of grace for you. At the very least, come to the prayer and then see if the Spirit prompts you to celebrate the Sacrament. Father Frank and I, along with two visiting priests (who will not know you), will be available.

In this week's bulletin we are introducing a new feature. I am calling it, "A View from the Pew." Periodically parishioners will be asked to write a one-page reflection. I am asking them to share some experience that they had in regards to spirituality or life in the Church. I thank Beth Rivalsi for writing the first column about her recent trip to Anaheim, California, to attend the Religious Education Congress.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy St. Joseph's Day. In this regard, I like to consider myself very international. I love corned beef and cabbage and I love the St. Joseph's pastry (sfinge). Enjoy!

*The **Bread and Wine** for the week March 15th-21st have been donated
in loving memory of **Charles Porcelli** by his sister, Carole.*



LITURGY BYTES

Eucharist ~ The source & summit of our lives



By now I am sure you are aware of the Diocesan directive regarding Holy Communion that was introduced to us last week.

Until further notice, we are asked to distribute the Eucharist under one form only, except for those who have a medical need to only receive the Precious Blood. In the past, because of the flu season, many parishes ceased offering the Chalice for the winter months. Even though we are trying to be careful and avoid the spread of this new virus, I am sure many are disappointed. I hope we can clear up some of these thoughts, broaden our view, and implore you to spread the correct Church teaching about the Eucharist. Are you game? I hope so.

With the exclusion of receiving the precious Blood, I am sure some are asking, "Does receiving under the form of bread constitute that I am receiving the body and blood of Jesus?" Here is how the US Conference of Bishops answered that question: *Yes. Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, is wholly present under the appearance either of bread or of wine in the Eucharist.*

After hearing last week's Gospel about the Transfiguration, I saw in a new light how we all change when receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. I always reminded myself of what I had learned many years ago when preparing for First Communion: receiving Jesus was totally receiving His Body, Blood, Soul, Humanity and Divinity. Later on I learned, as we all did, that this is why the Eucharist is also called the True or Real Presence. It is not a symbol or just a reminder of Jesus, it truly is Jesus. And, how blessed and privileged we are to share in His life at each Mass. So, together, let's spread the Good News! Have a blessed week.

~~~ *Michele Hahn*

# PARISH LENTEN MISSION

## THEME FOR WEEK 3 OF THE PARISH LENTEN MISSION

### *“Forgiveness in the Lord”*

Come join us for prayer, reflection and song  
**Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM**

*“...we implore you on behalf of  
Christ, be reconciled to God.”*

*2 Corinthians 5:20*



*I Absolve You*

Our guest speaker: **Rev. Jerry DiSpigno**  
Associate Pastor at  
Good Shepherd Parish, Holbrook

*Invite a friend or family member to join you!*

# PARISH LENTEN MISSION



## UPCOMING Lenten Mission Night

March 23 at 7:30 PM

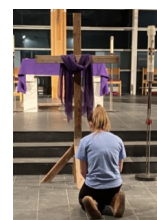
*Keeping a Holy Lent*

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>:** “United in the Lord” – Speaker: **Sister Pat Duffy, OP**  
Sisters of St. Dominic (Amityville)  
Hospitality will be served to conclude our Mission series.

**SAVE THIS DATE AND BRING A FRIEND OR TWO! “ALL ARE WELCOME”**

# YOUTH MINISTRY

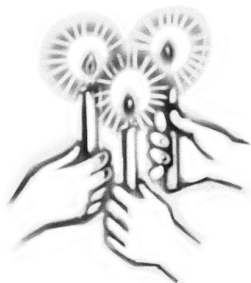
Are you a high school student who has received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Then check out the **Holy Cross Youth Group!** Here are some pictures from last week's Youth Night.



We talked all about Lent and the three ways to build a stronger relationship with Christ during this Lenten season: fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you are thinking about joining us and you would like more information, then please do not hesitate to contact Allie Roecklein, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, at [hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com](mailto:hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com) or call the parish office. Thank you!

# LENTEN SERVICE



## Tenebrae

**Tenebrae** is a liturgical service of light to darkness, traditionally celebrated during Lent. It is a presentation of the Passion of Jesus Christ through seven Scripture readings, meditations and song. It involves our Choir, Readers and the Congregation. We encourage all parishioners to join us for our Tenebrae Service on **Friday, April 3rd, at 7:30 PM** as we prepare our hearts and minds for the great gift of Holy Week to follow.

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Eat Simply Ideas

Here are some ideas to consider using for your family's participation in our Eat Simply program.

- If you gave up sweets for Lent, donate the money saved so that we can purchase cookies and snacks for a family.
- Discuss what a "simple meal" means in your household. Is it soup and bread? Is it a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? **Our simple meals can be a gourmet feast for some families struggling to make ends meet.**
- Rather than having your Starbucks or Dunkin' Donuts coffee, make your morning coffee at home. The money you donate could buy a can of coffee for a family.
- If you go out to dinner, have coffee and dessert at home and donate what it would have cost you at the restaurant.



Envelopes are available on the bulletin tables; you may return your envelope in the basket on the pillar by the altar or in the collection basket. Thank you so much for prayerfully participating in our Eat Simply program, so that others may simply eat!

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Long Island Cares Food Drive March 21/22

Our Parish will again hold a food drive during Lent, to benefit **Long Island Cares**. During difficult economic times we are all aware of the struggles many of our neighbors endure in meeting the food and financial needs of their households. **Long Island Cares** provides a valuable service in providing food to community agencies and food pantries across Long Island.

**Next weekend**, March 21/22, boxes will be available in the atrium for you to place donated food. Here are Long Island Cares' most needed items: (No glass jars, please)

- Pancake/Waffle Mixes
- Hot and Cold Cereal
- Juice (plastic container)
- Shelf-stable Milk (ex. Parmalat)
- Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam (plastic jars)
- Canned Ham, Chicken, Tuna
- Pasta, Rice, Egg Noodles
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Vegetables, Fruits, Soups
- Cookies, Crackers, Granola Bars
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Toothpaste, Toothbrushes
- Diapers and Wipes, Feminine Hygiene Products



*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”* Margaret Mead

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Census  
2020

**Everyone counts/Census 2020**

**Invitations are coming**

In mid-March, homes across the country will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. Households that don't respond in one of these ways by the end of April will be visited by a census taker to collect the information in person. Census workers you may encounter now are verifying addresses, not collecting actual census information.

**For more information, visit [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)**



# Holy Cross Travel Club

## Experience the Magic Of **MANILOW & MIDLER**

**STARRING**  
**TERRY DAVIES & SHERIE RAE PARKER**

Entertainer Terry Davies joins forces with the amazingly talented Sherie Rae Parker to deliver the Music and Magic of Barry Manilow & Bette Midler

**Tuesday, November 10, 2020**

**\$120** Per Person, Price Includes:

Transportation from Holy Cross, Ticket to Show & Dinner at Domenico's of Levittown

Travel Protection is suggested at \$20 per Person



**NYCB  
Theatre at  
Westbury**

**Showtime 2 PM**

If interested, please complete the tear-off below and return to the office with your check made payable to: Parish of the Holy Cross. You may also pay in person by credit card in the Parish Office.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only:

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Authorization # \_\_\_\_\_

# CONGRATULATIONS!

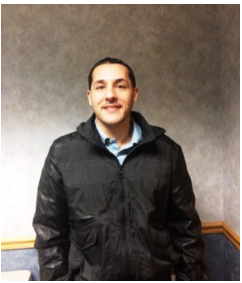
## RCIA

Our parish community prays for the following candidates and catechumen as they journey toward the Easter Sacraments of Initiation!



Kimberly Tynebor

My name is Kimberly Tynebor. I've been married to my husband, Chris, for 14 years, and we have an 8-year-old son, Michael. I'm a middle school orchestra teacher in the Middle Country School District. I was raised as a Protestant and my husband is Catholic. After spending the past several years in the Episcopal Church, we decided that we wanted a Church with more of the beliefs and practices that we value as a family. A Catholic friend of mine encouraged me to attend a Catholic Mass and learn more about the faith. Many of our friends and neighbors are members of Holy Cross, so we started attending weekly Mass. We enrolled our son in Religious Education, and I signed up for the RCIA. The people at Holy Cross have been very helpful and welcoming throughout our journey, and my son and I are looking forward to being fully received into the Catholic Church.



Johnny Santos

My name is Johnny Santos. I have 4 children ages 15, 12, 10, and 5, and I am engaged to be married at Holy Cross in October. I was baptized when I was a baby, but I never received my other Sacraments. I decided to be involved in RCIA so I could receive my Sacraments prior to the wedding. My family has been attending Holy Cross for several years, and my children celebrated their Sacraments here. I am thankful to be on this journey.



Cheryl Maher

My name is Cheryl Maher. I live in Ronkonkoma with my husband, Michael, and our two boys, Michael and Matthew. I've decided to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Communion for myself, and for my kids. My older son received his First Communion, and my younger son will start Religious Education next year. I want to give my children a good religious foundation which I didn't have growing up.



Samantha Stephens

My name is Samantha Stephens. I have been coming to Holy Cross for a few years, because of a family I have become very close to over the years. I decided to become involved in RCIA because my relationship with God is the most important part of my life. Taking this further step to become closer to Him is extremely important to me. I want to know that I am fully invested in Catholicism, having it as the foundation of my life and helping me with the choices that I make every day.

# CONGRATULATIONS...

*to the following students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil:*



Luke Daddino

Luke is a high honors junior at The Knox School, excelling in all areas, especially his effort. He works very well independently and is a talented artist. He is a gentle giant, caring, loving and conscientious, a very responsible young man. He does all his chores without being asked. He has a slapstick, hilarious sense of humor.



William Daddino

William is a junior at The Knox School and is in advanced placement courses, honors English, and on the honor roll. He is a soulful peacekeeper and a humble, talented artist. He is quiet, insightful, forward thinking, funny, sensible, responsible, kind, and a thought-provoking young man.



Julia Daddino

Julia is a high honor roll Junior at Connetquot high school, a member of the Animal Conservation Club, and a Junior Commissioner at Keep Islip Clean. She also volunteers at Connetquot State Park and other places in the community. She is an adventurous, spirited, responsible young lady with a beautiful soul. She is a good friend to all.

*to the following students who will receive the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil:*



Ava Skoblicki

Ava is a beautiful angel. She loves her phone, shopping, and her friends. Ava is gentle, kind, and always willing to help out. She is also an outstanding student at Great Hollow Middle School.



Matthew Daddino

Matthew is a most generous person. He is incredibly smart, thoughtful, kind, and loving. Although shy at times, Matthew is a leader and a good friend to have. He is working hard on improving his effort in school and his attitude at home, and the results are astounding!

*to the following student who will receive the Sacraments of Baptism, First Eucharist and Confirmation at the Easter Vigil:*



Ayden Skoblicki

Ayden is a sweet, intelligent boy who loves spending time building and being outdoors. He also enjoys jujitsu, lacrosse, art, and chess. Ayden is a fourth-grade student at Tackan Elementary School and is also a cub scout.



# A VIEW FROM THE PEW

My “View from the Pew” is from the LA Religious Education Congress in Anaheim, California, that took place February 20-23. It is the same Congress the Holy Cross Pastoral Team attended last year. This annual event draws almost 40,000 people who are involved in ministry. It is inspiring to see such numbers. When I heard they were going (last year) and their experience when they returned, I knew I wanted to go in 2020. My best friend and I were making it a “girls’ weekend” until life upended her plans. I decided to go solo; I knew I would be by myself, but I knew I would not be alone.

I arrived on Thursday, the Youth Day, of the Congress. The convention center was filled with teenagers, many of the teens wearing “Jesus” t-shirts and most wearing smiles. There was a tangible spirit present in the young people enjoying a day of being with each other, the Church. Later in the day, I witnessed the never-ending line of teens walking toward Disneyland, wearing the same t-shirts and smiles.

Friday began the 3-day Congress for adults with a powerful prayer service. The liturgical movement and joyful music set the theme of the Congress which was **Live Mercy, Be Holy**. The prayers and the speakers challenged and encouraged us to do that, Live Mercy, Be Holy. The prayer and liturgies all weekend were constant places of hope, love and reflection, and then we were sent to live out the Mercy of God.

There were over 300 workshops offered as well as Keynote talks, mostly based on God’s great mercy and our call to holiness. That call to holiness was not only to the cardinals, bishops, priests, or religious among us but each one of us present, no matter what our vocation. We could only choose 8 workshops! The choices were rich. The workshops I attended included topics on The Eucharist, Humble Thanks, Biblical Radical Mercy, Pope Francis’ Words on Mercy and Holiness, Evangelization, Catholic Teaching and our Response to Immigration, and Prayer.

It was not only in the prayer, the speakers, and the planned experiences where I found hope for the Church. I met Catholic and public-school principals, grade level catechists, music ministers, parish volunteers, and Father James Martin! I met people, who work with Father Boyle, who work with the gangs in Los Angeles, trying to Live Mercy in what looks like a hopeless situation. I was surrounded by people of all colors and nationalities speaking different languages. There was joy as people gathered for lunch from concessions, food trucks or their own coolers. I saw a number of dads sitting on the floor outside of workshops with babies. I met people at the hotel bar and restaurant who wanted to share their faith stories and how they minister in their parishes. All were proud to be Catholic, and all wanted to deepen their faith and bring back to their communities the gift of mercy and holiness with concrete ideas on how to do this.

I had wanted to attend this Congress to hear the voice of the Catholic Church in the many speakers that were scheduled. I wanted to be recharged in my Catholic faith. I wanted to see the Church at its best. My view from the pew, is that the Church is alive with hope but not without challenges. We are the Church, and the people in the pews are invited and challenged to rise from our seats and **Live Mercy, Be Holy**.

**Submitted by Beth Rivalsi**

PS: Next year’s Congress is on February 19-21, 2021. You can go on YouTube to watch the Liturgies and the speakers that were in the Anaheim Arena this year.



# CASH CALENDAR



## Parish of the Holy Cross March 2020



| Sun        | Mon        | Tue                | Wed                                                                                                    | Thu        | Fri        | Sat        |
|------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1<br>\$50  | 2<br>\$50  | 3<br>\$50          | 4<br>\$50                                                                                              | 5<br>\$50  | 6<br>\$50  | 7<br>\$50  |
| 8<br>\$50  | 9<br>\$50  | 10<br>\$50         | 11<br>\$50                                                                                             | 12<br>\$50 | 13<br>\$50 | 14<br>\$50 |
| 15<br>\$50 | 16<br>\$50 | 17<br><b>\$500</b> | 18<br>\$50                                                                                             | 19<br>\$50 | 20<br>\$50 | 21<br>\$50 |
| 22<br>\$50 | 23<br>\$50 | 24<br>\$50         | 25<br>\$50                                                                                             | 26<br>\$50 | 27<br>\$50 | 28<br>\$50 |
| 29<br>\$50 | 30<br>\$50 | 31<br>\$50         | <b>\$10 Per Chance<br/>31 Chances to Win<br/>\$50 Per Day<br/>\$500 on March 17, St. Patrick's Day</b> |            |            |            |

*Cash Calendar, MARCH 2020*

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*Cash Calendar, MARCH 2020*

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*Cash Calendar, MARCH 2020*

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# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

|                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Monday, March 16th</b>      | 7:30 PM              |
| • PARISH MISSION               | Worship Area         |
| <b>Tuesday, March 17th</b>     | 10 AM                |
| • IN STITCHES                  | Fr. Joe Room         |
| <b>Wednesday, March 18th</b>   | 9:30 AM              |
| • CONFESSION                   | Chapel               |
| • FINANCE COMMITTEE            | 7PM Fr. Joe Room     |
| <b>Saturday, March 21st</b>    | 5 PM                 |
| • LONG ISLAND CARES FOOD DRIVE | Atrium               |
| <b>Sunday, March 22nd</b>      | All Masses           |
| • LONG ISLAND CARES FOOD DRIVE | Atrium               |
| • REL. ED. FAMILY PROGRAM      | 10-11AM Fr. Joe Room |

## EASTER MASS INTENTIONS

*In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Easter Masses, there are prayer cards in the atrium for you to write your special intentions on. These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Easter Masses.*



## SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next weekend, at the offertory, we will also be collecting for **Catholic Relief Services**. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Please consider donating next week to the **CRS** and **help Jesus in disguise**. To learn more about the collection go to:

[www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief)



## The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

### Upcoming Workshop

**Bereavement Conference** – For the Bereaved and those Ministering to them.

**St. Frances de Chantal, Wantagh**  
Saturday,  
March 21, 2020  
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Basic Religious Studies Course Series**

**St. Mary's, Manhasset**  
3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

**New Testament**  
Mondays, March 30;  
April 6, 20, 27;  
and May 4, 2020

**Christology**  
Mondays, May 11, 18;  
June 1, 8, and 15, 2020

**8th Annual Women's Conference**  
– The Voice of Catholic Women

**Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington**  
Sunday, April 4, 2020  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Wonderfully Made Mother and Daughter Tea**

**Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Roosevelt**  
Sunday, March 22, 2020  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Or

**St. James, Setauket**  
Sunday, March 29, 2020  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Or

**St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays**  
Sunday, April 19, 2020  
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Bereavement Ministry Facilitator Training Level I & II**

**St. Bernard, Levittown**  
Saturdays, March 28;  
April 4, 18, 25;  
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30;  
and June 6, 2020  
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays**  
Saturday, April 11, 18,  
25; and May 16, 2020  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**St. Mary's, East Islip**  
Saturday, April 25;  
May 2, 9, and 16, 2020  
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Golden Wedding Anniversary Liturgy**

**Saint Patrick's, Smithtown**  
Sunday, May 3, 2020  
2:00 p.m.

**Annual Afternoon of Prayer & Enrichment - Ministry of Consolation**

**St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Melville**  
Thursday, May 14, 2020  
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

**Enrichment Day For Bereavement Facilitators June 2020**

**St. Rosalie, Hampton Bays**  
Saturday, June 6, 2020  
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**Save the Date!**

**Catechetical Congress 2020**

**St. John the Baptist High School, West Islip**  
Saturday,  
September 19, 2020

**Registration coming soon.**

For more information, workshops, or to register online, please visit [drcv-faith.org/event/](http://drcv-faith.org/event/)



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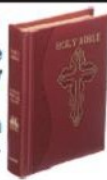
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