

# *The Parish of the Holy Cross*

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200

[www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothnesconset](https://www.facebook.com/pothnesconset)

**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**Happy Mother's Day!**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 10, 2020**

**Vision Statement:** *Holy Cross is a vibrant Catholic community striving to maintain a spirit of welcome to all, serving as a guiding beacon to nourish and sustain prayer, work and play.*

**We celebrate Eucharist**

The 9AM Daily Mass, Monday-Friday, &  
the Sunday 11:30AM Mass are live streamed on Facebook.

# We are here for you!

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Pastoral Associate, ext.116

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Pastoral Associate, ext.120

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P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Roberto Maza  
Vincent Matula  
Custodians

Mary Inghilterra  
Weekend Sacristan

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

Patricia Becker, George V. Daly, Manuela Diaz, Francesco DiMartino, Ann Egan, Phil Graziose, Bob Grieco, Joseph Santamaria, Marlene Starr, Judy Viskupic

**Mass Intentions for the upcoming week:** Mon.-Bertha Tepedino & Steven Cono;  
Tue.-Denise Lamarque; Wed.-Bob DeFilippis; Thu.-Anthony DeVito Jr.

**All Mass intentions for May 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> will be read at the 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook:** John J. Daly, Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto, Robert Kerr

**The Church is open for private prayer:** Monday through Friday from 10AM to 2PM and Sundays from 7:30AM to 11AM.

**The Parish Offices are closed.** You can leave a message for us at the above extensions. We will return your call as soon as possible.

**Readings for 6<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Easter, May 17<sup>th</sup>:** Acts 8:5-8,14-17; 1 Peter 3:15-18; John 14:15-21

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*God, give me Grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, Trusting that You will make all things right if I Surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen.*

# Coronavirus Chronicle #8

*by Father Michael*

Experience has taught me that my most effective preaching and writing seems to be when the "wisdom" or insight I offer is rooted in my own experience. I don't think I am the only one feeling weary and disconnected. As unpleasant as this may feel, it can ultimately be a rich place within the spiritual journey. We must keep this crisis within a spiritual context if we are to emerge with hope and life.

The circumstances of life have brought many of us to a moment that is called "liminal space." Liminal space is a vulnerable place to be. It can be described as a threshold or in-between space. We cannot accidentally stumble into it in a day. It takes a long and winding journey to get there, such as a pandemic.

The first component of liminal space is often the most painful. Our world as we know it is dismantled; routines are disrupted, we feel detached and separated, and places of security are removed. The experience can make you feel alone, naked, and vulnerable. It feels like being smack dab in the middle of nowhere.

There are times in our lives when we need to make significant changes. But normally, when we move from one stage to another, we have a sense of what is coming next. We can handle change as long as we feel we have some degree of control. That's where the heart of liminal space lies; we have lost the past but not yet received what's next. We feel we are on a threshold. We can do nothing more than surrender our will and allow God to fill our hearts.

The other half of the equation of liminal space is where God's grace rushes in to transform all the negative energy we have experienced. And it only needs to be a tiny insight, one small thing (like when the Risen Lord speaks the name "Mary" to assure her that he was alive). When God's grace rushes in, it sweeps us off our feet and tears often flow. His presence is unmistakable. We can't control when, how, or if this happens; after all, it is God's grace. It is often revealed in the simplest of ways: an embrace, a baby smiling, a glorious sunrise. But, when it happens, it puts us firmly on our feet again. We know something in a deeper way than we have known before. Last Sunday's video might have been a means for a few people in which they came to know the joy of God's presence in a powerful way.

I have been graced to have had this kind of experience before in my life. However, that happened while I was on retreat. It was a controlled environment, and I was somewhat prepared for something holy to happen. But these unexpected days we share are profound. We are in it together, although none of us asked to be here. Admittedly, these times may not be where you want to be, but it may very well be a place where God can speak like never before. There is no guarantee that something profound will happen, but trust you are in God's hands and He continues to offer us life.

# Getting to Know Mary

In all honesty, my relationship with our Blessed Mother had a rocky start. My earliest memories of Mary, from the large alabaster statue on my mother's dresser, to the holy cards in my grandmother's missal, to the Miraculous Medal I received for my First Communion, all presented a picture of the perfect woman – pure, pious, holy. I thought she was beautiful, and I marveled at her goodness. She was someone to look up to, someone to pray to, but not necessarily someone whom I could know, or, someone with whom I could have a relationship.

Growing up, I struggled with connecting to Mary. She was sinless; I surely was not. As I learned of her various apparitions, especially at Lourdes and Fatima, I wondered why she chose to appear to those particular children, and why, having experienced such a wondrous event, the children's lives were so difficult. Once, I told my mother I needed a night light because I was afraid the Blessed Mother was going to come at night and appear to me, and she replied, "Don't worry; you're not that good!"

And therein lay the root of my problem – I truly believed I wasn't good enough for Mary to spend any time with me. I'm sure my mom meant well (I did stop worrying about having any apparitions), but it took me many years of study and prayer and guidance to find the complete Mary, not just the plaster saint, but the real human being.

In my studies I learned more about the young Jewish girl who had said "yes" to God. Not a grown woman, but a teenager who questioned, "How can this be?" And without totally understanding the answer, she trusted God enough to say yes. Her journey throughout Scripture is one of a real life, with challenges and uncertainties. I, too, had questions, I faced challenges and uncertainties, so I began to understand and appreciate Mary in a new way.

Later, in 2008, I made the Spiritual Exercises. In that retreat I was seeking God's help in dealing with the death of my husband. Conversations with Mary are part of some of the retreat's prayers. All the old notions about Mary's perfection and my unworthiness kicked in, and I felt blocked. But as I tried to pray with Mary, it suddenly occurred to me that she had lost her husband. We don't know when or how, but we do know Joseph disappears from the story. Mary was a widow; I was a widow. All at once, I realized that Mary must know exactly how I felt, and that made all the difference. I poured out my heart to her, and she helped me get to a new place of healing.



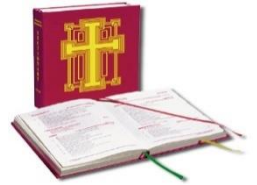
And now, I have lost my son, so who do I turn to but the one who lost her son. As I experience Mary walking this road with me, I am filled with gratitude for the relationship which we have built. My apparition never happened, but this is so much better.

May Mary, our mother, give you what you need this Mother's Day.

*Jude Pickel*

# LITURGY BYTES

## Words of the Mass – Part 3



As we have been exploring these past few weeks, the prayers of the Mass are filled with rich images of God's grace, mercy and blessing. We who gather are drawn into the Mystery of God through the words prayed. They help form us in our relationship with God and with all creation. Also, rooted in Sacred Scripture, the words of the Mass form us in our prayer and reflection. However, sometimes because they are very familiar, we may react too mechanically and miss out on enriching our experience of the Mass. It is my hope by revisiting some of these prayers, we can rekindle a new and deeper appreciation for them.

This week, let us take a look at just the Gospel and the prayers that surround that proclamation. As we know, some texts are repeated year after year, and we become immune to them because we know them so well. We know the stories and how they will end. Sometimes they may not carry the same punch like when we heard them for the first time. This is also true with the various acclamations that precede and follow the Gospel reading. Because these texts are so familiar, when we hear the priest's words, we respond without ever thinking. I know I do! One thing to keep in mind is that these texts did not change with the recent translation of the Roman Missal in 2011, so there are no new words to worry about! However, let us look at these words and, perhaps, find a new and/or deeper meaning which might help us make them more than just responses on our lips.

Glory to you, O Lord – an acclamation which should elicit a sound of praise and approval - is showing and telling us that the Gospel is something special because it is about Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Take the word "you," which we use when speaking to another who is actually present to us. Before the Gospel is even proclaimed, we are giving glory and praise to Jesus Christ, whom we address as present among us. Similar direct language is also part of our response at the conclusion when we hear, "The Gospel of the Lord"; we say, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ." Again, we use the word "you" but also make it clear whom we are addressing (Lord, Jesus Christ). This proclamation shows us that this is a living, dynamic Presence of the Risen Christ. Because of this uniqueness among the readings, we stand for the Gospel proclamation, directing us to realizing we are in the presence of Jesus.

This very real encounter with Jesus in the Gospel urges us, inspires us and, perhaps, commands us to identify ourselves more perfectly with the Christ in whom we have been baptized and to live as He did. Thus, we can say that the proclamation of the Gospel provides a blueprint for Christian living. Each Gospel reveals a little bit more of the Mystery we are called to embrace and live. Let us take these thoughts into our prayer when we gather for Mass next time. We will try to enter into these acclamations and not mumble our responses, but say or sing them with more thought in what they mean to our Faith. Here is a prayer to assist us:

*Ever present God, we glorify you, we praise you, we adore you in the word you speak to us. May we acclaim with full throat your Son's Divine Presence. Help us not only to hear the Gospel, but to take it into our very being as Jesus Christ's Life-giving Presence. Strengthen us to live what we hear so that all our actions are consistent with Jesus' life. May we witness to our commitment to do your holy will in all things. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

Have a blessed, safe and peaceful week.~~~~~*Michele Hahn*

WE REMEMBER WE CELEBRATE WE BELIEVE

# PARISH OUTREACH

## A Great Big Outreach THANK YOU

As we all struggle through these difficult days, my heart has been overwhelmed by the generosity of our parishioners in supporting the work of Parish Outreach.

Not only has the pantry remained well stocked, but so many of you have chosen to make financial donations to Parish Outreach. This will be a tremendous help in the coming months. The future is uncertain for many as we evolve out of this crisis. Their financial struggles may continue for quite a while going forward. As always, Parish Outreach tries to assist those households to the extent we can. Your support makes all of that possible.

Although we are required to isolate and maintain proper distance from each other, it is quite evident that this community continues to walk with those in need. The Parish of Holy Cross embraced that commitment 30 years ago, and it has maintained that focus ever since.

Thank you all so very, very much! God bless you all and stay safe.

Mary Anne McCulloch  
Parish Outreach Coordinator



## Virtual Bereavement Support Groups Good Shepherd Hospice - Catholic Health Services May & June 2020

For anyone grieving the loss of a loved one, we offer a connection, support and education in the midst of deep isolation, honoring your loved one during this very difficult time.

### **Bereavement Support Group for COVID-19 Related Loss**

**Date:** May 20 - June 24, **Time:** 6:00PM - 7:30PM, *Registration Required*

Please email/call: Keara Lincoln, LMSW at [Keara.Lincoln@CHSL.org](mailto:Keara.Lincoln@CHSL.org) or (631) 828-7631

### **Spousal/Partner Bereavement Support Group**

**Date:** June 11 - July 16, **Time:** 1:00PM - 2:30PM, *Registration Required*

Please email/call: Carolyn Lisi-Haas, LCSW-R at [Carolyn.Lisi-Haas@CHSL.org](mailto:Carolyn.Lisi-Haas@CHSL.org) or (631) 828-7629

### **Adult Loss of Parent or Sibling Support Group**

**Date:** June 11 - July 16, **Time:** 6:00PM - 7:30PM, *Registration Required*

Please email/call: Jennifer Herzog, LMSW at [Jennifer.Herzog@CHSL.org](mailto:Jennifer.Herzog@CHSL.org) or (631) 828-7626

# PARISH NEWS

## Mother's Day Mass Remembrances in Honor of...

Dora Libretti  
Rose Schreiber  
Roberta Lamb  
Mary E. Knipper  
Margaret Maher  
Patricia Schussler  
Jayne Kieley

Judith Abbate  
Catherine Sottung  
Eileen Sottung  
Emily Bellias  
Genevieve Minutoli  
Cornelia Polik

Donna Grass  
Kim Marie Carey  
Christina Grass  
Norma Giambanco  
Maria Giambanco  
Bridget Mazzuco



## Mother's Day Mass Remembrances in Memory of...

Josephine Scicluna  
Jean Bruno  
Teresa Lamb  
Laura McQuade  
Patricia Messina  
Eileen Duminuco  
Frances Grass  
Mildred Sellantoro  
Marie Puppa  
Margaret Leptich  
Lena Chiarella  
Rita Slevin  
Anna Testa  
Lucille DeVito  
Dorothy Conway  
Elizabeth Conway  
Frances Birkins  
Dorothy Swenson  
Loretta Lombardo  
Mildred Zaccaria  
Christina Zaccaria  
Agnes Winberry  
Elaine Dragos  
Eileen Hepp  
Jane Daly  
Angie Fumai  
Emma Fumai  
Emma Feldman  
Diane Forte  
Agatha Anzalone

Blanca Forero  
Rita Renck  
Etta Ford  
Irene Sims  
Dorothy Zeltmann  
Virginia Conlin  
Marie Morris  
Pauline Kruk  
Theresa Schnurr  
Anna Bursky  
Agnes Cain  
Flo Cangelieri  
Agnes Salemi  
Lorraine Hoos  
Frances Monaco  
Thomassina Collura  
Laura Rammelkamp  
Rita Rammelkamp  
Helen Culkin  
Gertrude Cogliano  
Julia Malek  
Sue Melillo  
Florence Marturano  
Anna Lipnicki  
Joan O'Hanlon  
Mary Italiano  
Bertha Perrino  
Rita Casey  
Grace Levandi  
Lee Martino

Irene (Honey) Kuczwaj  
Virginia Makowski  
Carmela Pappalardo  
Caroline Downs  
Anne Mattera  
Emma Emerson  
Esther Grajales  
Janis C.J. Chieca  
Ann Brennan  
Eleanor Courtney  
Helen Kaminsky  
Irene Vasiluth  
Hilde Ferrandino  
Dorothy Kohler  
Linda Marino  
Maria Eannacone  
Rose Marino  
Anna Tschumi  
Frances B. Kelly  
Louise Hartnagle  
Laurie Michel  
Joan O'Clair  
Josephine Militello  
Jean Inghilterra  
Catherine O'Grady  
Josephine O'Shea  
Marie Schultz  
Catherine Henry  
Helen McCulloch  
Annmarie Polizzi

Marion Burger  
Evelyn Ragno  
Virginia Chasinov  
Lucy Lescinski  
Maria Ligabo  
Teresa Dragotta  
Nora Lenihan  
Martha Vetter  
Dorothy Rivers  
Kathryn Harrington  
Mary Donnelly  
Rose Marinelli  
Patricia Kelly Reid  
Genevieve Kelly  
Irene Reid  
Stella Konchalski  
Catherine Neary  
Stasia Egan  
Helena Corcoran  
Marion Budreo  
Ann Lechner  
Theresa Carofano  
Antonia Minerva  
Dorothy Conroy  
Josephine Vitale  
Anne Merlo  
Florence Sassano  
Josephine Sassano



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 4, 2020

*"... a caress, a smile, is full of meaning for one who is sick. It is a simple gesture, but encouraging, he or she feels accompanied, feels closer to being healed, feels like a person, not a number." – Pope Francis*

Dear Catholic Health Services Nurses:

As we celebrate National Nurses Week (May 6 to May 12, 2020), I want to thank each and every one of you for your exceptional dedication and spirit of sacrifice as you compassionately serve the sick and suffering, live the Catholic mission expressed in our Catholic Health Services of Long Island, and continue your efforts to defeat COVID-19.

Graciously carrying out your profession in caring for the sick during this crisis is truly heroic.

Capturing your world during time is an article that appeared in the *Wall Street Journal* (3/31/2020) by Dr. Paul Dohrenwend entitled "Nurses Are the Coronavirus Heroes."

Dr. Dohrenwend writes: *"If you wonder who actually sticks the swabs into the noses of worried patients, it's the nurses. They're on the front line, face-to-face in the 6-foot danger zone. They are collecting the data that epidemiologists use to track the outbreak. Moving in and out of negative-pressure rooms, putting protective equipment on and taking it off, nurses are caring for elderly patients who are severely ill and sometimes crashing. The nurses marinate in risk as they spend the greatest amount of time with the patient. They draw blood, obtain samples, provide oxygen, and steadfastly tend to their patients' needs. They are by the doctors' side as we intubate patients struggling to breathe. Once that patient is transferred to the intensive-care unit, it's the nurses who do the mundane and the heroic to make sure the patient survives the illness or dies more comfortably...I thank everyone who's working to help get through this...Everyone is playing a part—but none are more important than the nurses."*

Know how much we all appreciate your dedicated work, your courage and your commitment to the sanctity of human life at every stage of life. It is a powerful and compelling witness for the common good.

Our shared belief in the objective truth of the sanctity of human life is the freedom that propels such heroism and courage among so many, in a special way you our nurses, in these challenging times.

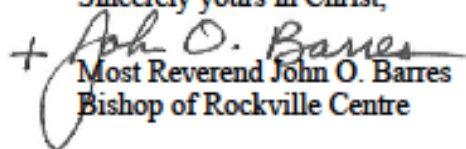
This past March 25<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. John Paul II's encyclical *The Gospel of Human Life (Evangelium Vitae)*.



His words at the beginning of the encyclical are so poignant 25 years later as we experience the tragedies and traumas of the COVID-19 crisis.

He writes: *"The Church knows that this Gospel of life, which she has received from her Lord, has a profound and persuasive echo in the heart of every person – believer and non-believer alike – because it marvelously fulfills all the heart's expectations while infinitely surpassing them. Even in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can, by the light of reason and the hidden action of grace, come to recognize in the natural law written in the heart (cf. Romans 2:14-15) the sacred value of human life from its beginning until its end, and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree. Upon the recognition of this right, every human community and the political community itself are founded."*

Our prayers are with you and every nurse in every hospital and nursing home on Long Island at every moment in these challenging times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
  
+ John O. Barres  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

P. S. I invite you to join me as I celebrate a virtual White Mass in recognition of all health care workers at St. Agnes Cathedral on May 17, 2020. This Mass will air at 11:00 AM on Catholic Faith Network (CFNTV.org) (Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471). You can also watch CFN on Roku, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android, or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching "Catholic Faith Network" or "CFN".

## PARISH NEWS

### Online Prayer Pages

At this time, we are offering the opportunity for people to express their prayer intentions. You can leave a message at the office at 631-265-2200 ext.122 or email your prayers to [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net). Your intentions will be added to *Our Prayer Pages*, which can be viewed by clicking the link on the homepage of our website, and can be prayed for by others. (Please note: If praying for those who are ill, last names may not always appear unless permission has been granted.)

### Collection Envelopes

Next weekend in your envelope packet, you will find an envelope for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Envelopes may be mailed to Holy Cross or placed in the drop box in our courtyard. We thank you for your continued support!



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