

# *The Parish of the Holy Cross*

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +  
www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**Come and pray with us!**

**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 12, 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**

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM,

Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

(The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are live streamed on Facebook.)

# We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net)

## PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann  
Pastor, ext.115

Deacon Ralph Rivera  
Pastoral Minister, ext.119

Mrs. Judith Pickel  
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Michele Hahn  
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112  
Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. MaryAnne McCulloch, ext.113  
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano  
Business Manager, ext.110

Mr. Brian Reich  
Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein  
Youth Minister

## PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth  
Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek  
Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111  
Religious Education Secretary  
([hcreled@optonline.net](mailto:hcreled@optonline.net))

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

Mr. Roberto Maza  
Mr. Vincent Matula  
Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra  
Weekend Sacristan

## Remembering Our Sick

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

<b>Patricia Becker</b>	<b>George V. Daly</b>
<b>Manuela Diaz</b>	<b>Francesco DiMartino</b>
<b>Ann Egan</b>	<b>Sienna Fricke</b>
<b>Phil Graziore</b>	<b>Bob Grieco</b>
<b>Chuck Madden</b>	<b>Joseph Santamaria</b>
<b>Marlene Starr</b>	<b>Judy Viskupic</b>

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick, please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 x122 or email to [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net).

## Mass Intentions Schedule

### Week of July 12th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Denise Lamarque  
**Tue.** James Pickel  
**Wed.** William T. Ford & David L. Ford  
**Thu.** Ed Rahilly

### Saturday, July 18th, 5 PM Mass

Marie Guarino, Marie Ulrich, Gregory R. Wirth, Mary Simonetti, Adeline DeStefano, Lillian Tucci, Victoria & Gabriel Forero

### Sunday, July 19th, 16th Sun. in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM Matthew Akuntius, Kristin Burkard, Greg Wirth  
11:30 AM People of the Parish



## Scripture Readings for July 19, 2020



+ *Wisdom 12:13, 16-19*  
+ *Romans 8:26-27*  
+ *Matthew 13:24-43*

## Parish Office Summer Hours

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM



# Flapping Birds and Dancing Deer

*by Father Michael*

It has been a long and difficult week. I don't have a lot of extra brain cells to dedicate to anything profound or complicated, so let me give you some highlights from the world of nature from around my house.

Over a month ago, I was cutting back some large shrubs in my backyard. (I think they are yews?) It was more than a light trim; I was pruning them back by a couple of feet. As I was moving along with greenery flying in all directions, I realized I was about to cut a branch that had a bird's nest tucked into it. Thankfully, I stopped in time. But these birds clearly built the nest on the interior of the bush for safety and protection. Thanks to my gardening blitz, they now had a nest right on Main Street. I felt bad, but at that point there was nothing I could do. I hoped that I did not put them in danger.

Over the next few weeks, I saw a robin sitting in the nest looking a little dismayed about her new open-air accommodations. Soon enough there were two little mouths perched up in the air as Momma Bird made frequent visits with whatever little goodies baby birds eat. Actually, there were two large birds that took turns bringing the food. Were they Mamma and Papa? I heard lots of chirping, and all seemed to be going well. As the weeks passed, I noticed the bigger birds were sitting more on the branches as it seemed that was the only place where there was room. It was getting too crowded for everyone in the little nest. Soon I could see the flapping of wings as the little guys prepared to take off. Then one morning the nest was empty. I guess the little guys qualified to make their inaugural flight, and they are now off on their own. And, I suppose Mamma and Papa Robin are off relaxing somewhere knowing that they succeeded in their "birdly" duties. It was a neat development to watch over the course of weeks.

As I report to you on a regular basis, I often see deer around the house. As I walk on the path, I will see their hoof prints from where they crossed the path or even walked along on the path. Last week as I approached the garden, I could see several trails of deer prints. They all converged in one small area. The ground was stirred up. For the life of me, I couldn't figure out what they were all doing in that one small spot. So, for the lack of any logical explanation, I came to the conclusion that the deer had themselves a dance party. I'm sure there is another explanation, but it's just easier to imagine them having fun prancing around in circles.

I'm grateful that Mother Nature provides me with these moments of joy as God's critters do what God created them to do. I hope you have a good week. Stay strong (and healthy).

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Welcome to Holy Cross Religious Education

The Religious Education Office is planning ahead to the 2020-2021 Formation Year. We need your help so that we can adequately plan to meet the needs of our parish. If you have a child entering **First Grade in September you need to register**. If you have recently moved to our parish you need to register in the parish. Due to Covid-19, our program will be a mix of online and “home based” learning, depending on CDC guidelines. Please contact our office for more specific information.

- Religious Education classes will begin the week of October 19th, 2020.
- First time registration can be done online at [www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org) . Go to forms.
- Registration needs to be completed by August 15, 2020.
- Summer Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-2:30
- If your child was not baptized at Holy Cross you need to send us a copy of your child’s Baptism Certificate. Please email it to [hcreled@optonline.net](mailto:hcreled@optonline.net) .
- For those who are already part of our program, you need to re-register for the upcoming year. Please note that textbooks will not be distributed to your child without a registration form.

A detailed outline of our program is available online or at our office. However, there are a few important details to be noted.

- Children must successfully complete each grade level to proceed to the next.
- The Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation require a minimum of two years of preparation.

Most importantly, we need to work together. Faithful attendance at classes and parent workshops is essential. As comprehensive and informative as our program is, this is only one part of your child’s faith formation. The greatest thing you can do to nurture your faith and the faith of your child is to regularly be part of our Sunday Eucharist - whether in person or viewing our 11:30 AM live streamed Mass.



The Catechism of the Church states that parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. We are privileged to work with you in this task. We thank you for your cooperation in allowing us to be part of your lives. We look forward to a fruitful year where everyone, young and old, continues to grow in understanding the gift of our faith.

# A SUMMER LIKE NO OTHER

As Long Island moves through the phases of re-opening from the Covid-19 pandemic, and hopefully puts the severity of the illness behind us, we are seeing that our emergence from confinement is bringing us to a life far different from the one we once knew. There still are precautions to be taken and guidelines to be followed; we are not yet free to go where we want or to do what we want to do. So, while progress is encouraging, life for many remains difficult.

Health experts have been writing lately about the impact of these long, challenging months. Families have endured illness and death in isolation. Jobs have been lost. Routines have been shattered. Parents are exhausted and children are restless. While many continue to live alone and in fear, everyone is missing their usual social interactions. All this results in being “stressed out.” What do we do with that? Where do we turn?

The first thing to do is acknowledge how we feel. Stress held in leads to a variety of physical and emotional ailments. So, talk to a trusted friend (maybe someone here at Holy Cross) about how you feel. Be honest; name the feelings. Bring those feelings to God, too, in your prayer; write about them in your journal. Once they are out in the light, you will be amazed at how they lose their power.

Equally important, take a break. Summer is usually a time for re-charging, for slowing down. With life restricted, many summer activities have been disrupted and vacation plans have been shelved. And yet, we still can find ways to refresh and renew ourselves.

It's summer—get outside! Experience the beauty in your neighborhood. Take a drive and explore all that our island has to offer. Take a walk; go for a swim. Let the warmth of the sun soothe your soul and let a cool breeze stir new life in you. God's creation surrounds us, and, if we just pay attention, it can fill us with hope and joy.

Finally, we can spend some quality time with God. Summer offers opportunities to change things up a bit. Try a few minutes of prayer outside in the morning; let the quiet or the sounds of nature inspire your gratitude to God for the gift of a new day. Try praying a new way with Scripture: “Pray as You Go” is a simple prayer app that includes lovely music and takes only about 10 minutes. Pray the Rosary as you go for a walk. Use some newfound free time to go to our 9:00 live-streamed Mass. How you pray doesn't matter; that you pray does.

Every moment in life is an opportunity to experience God. God has been with us in trauma; God is with us now in recovery. As your awareness of God's presence deepens, may the summer months reveal God's healing love in new and wondrous ways.

Jude Pickel



# LITURGY BYTES—The First Sacrament

Living a sacramental life is the great gift and calling of every Catholic, and we sometimes forget just how powerful and healing that is.

This weekend we are looking at the first Sacrament we receive, Baptism. For most of us, this probably happened when we were babies. However, we all know that for some it has taken place as an adult. We have been fortunate to witness many adults being baptized here in our parish at the Easter Vigil. This year, because of the pandemic, we had postponed that celebration. However, we will be able to witness this very moving ritual in early August at one of the parish Masses. Please watch the bulletin for more specific details.

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist come under the category of Initiation Sacraments – granting us full membership as a Catholic.

We teach both our young people and parents bringing children for Baptism that Jesus touches our lives through the Sacraments. Our celebrations of the Sacraments are signs of Jesus' presence in our lives and a means for receiving his grace. A much deeper meaning than the “magic moments” term you might have heard expressed in some circles.

The structure of Baptism demonstrates the critical importance of cooperation between Church and family in passing on the faith. Parents are called, as Saint Augustine once said, not only to bring children into the world but also to bring them to God so that, through Baptism, they can be reborn as children of God and receive the gift of faith.

It is critically important that we remember the Sacraments are not traditions. They are not little rituals we play out like the make-believe games of childhood. They have the power to bring heaven to earth, rip the veil between all things seen and unseen, and allow humanity and eternity to commingle in mysterious, yet palpable ways. Through the Sacraments, heaven comes, not just to visit, but to live with us and in us. In the Sacraments, we are graced. Of course, this concept is best experienced and understood by adults who come into the Church. The little ones, baptized as infants, rely on their families to show them by example what it means to be and live as a Catholic Christian. It is particularly important for us to teach children that Sacraments are so much more than a ceremony to prepare for; they are God's way of reaching down to us and offering us a lifelong gift—a gift of grace that gives us a glimpse of heaven and a taste of eternity.

Have a blessed week~~~~~*Michele Hahn*



On the next page is a prayer for those who are Godparents to offer each day.

# The First Sacrament continued



I baptize you in the name  
of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit

Loving God, you embrace children with the arms of your mercy,  
and make them living members of your Church.

Give grace, to my Godchild:  
(say child's name)

To abide in your love, rejoice in the life that now is,  
and dwell with you in the life to come.

I ask this through Jesus, your Son. Amen.

## PARISH NEWS

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:** Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM-2:30 PM.

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN:** Monday-Friday 9:00 AM-2:30 PM.

**WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION:** Wednesdays after 9:00 AM Mass &  
Saturdays from 3:00 PM-4:00 PM or call Father Michael for an appointment.

**WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM:** Baptisms are generally celebrated twice each month at  
1 PM. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**WE CELEBRATE WEDDINGS:** Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six  
months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

### Special Collection

This weekend is the collection for our **Renovations and Major Repairs**  
fund. Envelopes may be mailed to Holy Cross, placed in the drop box in our  
courtyard or basket in the atrium. Thank you for your continued support!



### Prayer Pages on Our Parish Website

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

# PARISH NEWS



## Pray for Our Military

PFC Anna Brady  
Cpl. Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC  
SA Anthony J. DeNicola  
FC2 Lane Dyar  
Brandon Ferrara  
SSG Daniel Frost  
MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA  
WO Christopher Kaminsky  
Sgt. Michael J. Knipper, USMC  
SSGT Ryan Mauldin  
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC  
Lt. Ryan Montvydas  
IT1 Jason Mulderig  
LCpl. Michael Palagonia, USMC

We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service. We will continue to pray for them through 2020. Please let us know at any time during 2020 if their service is finished, their title has changed, or you would like continued prayers through 2021.

May God bless all who serve our nation. Pray for Peace!



*Holy Cross  
welcomes  
these children  
Baptized in June*

**Olivia June Cornell  
Jace Carter Darienzo  
Katelyn Elizabeth Grigg  
Lance Carter Ocasio**



We pray for the following parishioners whose funerals were celebrated at Holy Cross in June:

**Lorraine Corso  
Philip DiMarco  
Rose Donnelly  
Rosemarie Graus  
Jason Jerome  
Edward Proper**

May they rest in peace,  
and may their loved ones be consoled.

I'd like to express my deepest thanks to the Pastoral Team and Staff, and all Holy Cross parishioners, for the outpouring of prayers, support and gifts you have given me at this most difficult time.

I never imagined anything like this would ever happen. My heart is broken over the loss of my husband, Greg. He was my best friend, the love of my life. We were married for 37 years and they were the happiest years, having given us two wonderful children and three grandchildren. I will miss him terribly.

My faith tells me he is at home with our Lord. I thank you for all your prayers as I try to get through the grieving process. You at Holy Cross are also my family, and I need your help and continued prayers.

With love, I thank you,  
Jane Wirth



# PARISH OUTREACH



*Virtual Bereavement Support Group  
For anyone who has lost a loved one from COVID-19*



***A free 8 week group with Bereavement Specialists from Good Shepherd Hospice for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one from COVID-19***

**Providing a space to gather, offering connection, professional support and education in the midst of social distancing, honoring your loved one during this very difficult time**

***Wednesday Evenings  
July 29 thru September 2 / 5:00PM -6:30PM***

**Registration is required  
Zoom platform, instructions given after registration**

**If you are interested in attending or would like more information,**

**Please contact Keara Lincoln, LMSW**

**(631) 828-7631**

**[Keara.Lincoln@CHSLI.org](mailto:Keara.Lincoln@CHSLI.org)**