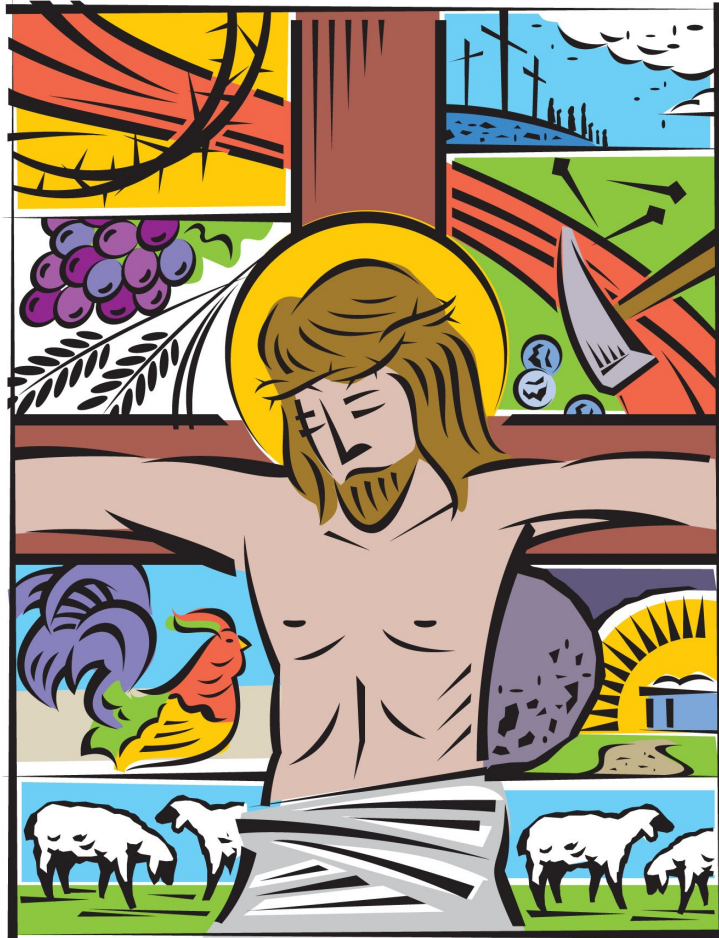


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www.holycrossrc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!

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.*



THE LAMB OF GOD

Come and pray with us!

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 15, 2023

We celebrate Eucharist

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM; Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are livestreamed on Facebook.

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM; Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

631.265.2200 + Fax: 631.265.2229 + Email: parish@holycrossrc.org
Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM (closed 12:15 - 1 PM)

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
Pastor, ext.115

Deacon Joseph Maffeo
Pastoral Minister, ext.124

Mrs. Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Michele Hall
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112
Director of Religious Ed.

Mrs. Kelley Mowat, ext.113
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister/Webmaster

Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111
Religious Education Secretary
(mpannone@holycrossrc.org)

Ms. Karina D'Angelo
Bookkeeper, ext. 110

Mr. Roberto Maza
Custodian

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Remembering Our Sick

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

Bob Alderdice	Theresa Arzillo
Jo Barry	Kathy Barry
Barbara Bombace	Cole Brennan
Dan Bryan	Ann Callari
Judy Carlson	Pattie Daly-Matonti
Jason DeLuca	Manuela Diaz
Ann Egan	Syl Evangelista
Ralph Farino	Sienna Fricke
Linda Heinrichs	Debbie Jablinowski
Diane Jones	Maureen Jost
Kristen Kennedy	Roberta Lamb
Dora Libretti	Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch	Viola Malek
Erin & baby Malley	Jeanne Marie Malley
Olivia Melia	Loretto Narducci
Mary Polik-Gunther	Carina Ranieri
Liam Richards	Elaine Ruane
Barbara Sherry	Celeste Sichenze
Kyle Sweeney	Bill Tanner
Peter Warns	Danny Youngworth

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of January 15th, 2023, 9AM Mass

Mon. Catherine Holzmann
Tue. Brianna Landisi
Wed. Catherine Baumer
Thu. Rocco Ciurleo



Sat., Jan. 21st, 5PM Mass—Holy Cross' Birthday

The Intentions of the People of the Parish

Sunday, January 22nd, 3rd Sun. Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Bob DeFilippis
9:30 AM Louis Ward, Michael Murphy, Michael Aleixo, Sophie Burns, Msgr. Michael Cantley, Lorenzo Paulino
11:30 AM Timothy Hirt

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick, please call 631-265-2200 x122.

JUMPING JANUARY

by Father Michael

Christmas and New Year's celebrations are now behind us. School vacations have concluded. We now find ourselves back in the usual routines and working our way into the beginning of 2023. Happy January.

I was delighted by all the help we received after the 11:30 Mass last week in helping to dismantle and put away our Christmas decorations. In the matter of about 20 minutes, every aspect of Christmas was packed and stored. Thanks to the many people who offered to climb ladders, carry plants, move items to the basement and even sweep the floors. In addition to the work being completed, there was a fun energy as everyone jumped in to help. Thank you to all the elves who made this big cleanup a minor effort.

I should have sent some of the helpers over to my house to help undecorate. Before we even got to the Epiphany, my Christmas tree told me it was time to come down. In one evening, four ornaments fell off the sagging branches. Unfortunately, one of the old ornaments from my childhood broke when it fell. Why is it so energizing and exciting to set up the decorations, and such a tedious and glum task to take them down?

I'm delighted to report we had a very strong Christmas collection of over \$53,000. The attendance at Christmas Masses was almost double of what we get on a regular weekend. We had about 1,500 people in total for this Christmas. Perhaps the bitter cold temperatures kept some folks away on Christmas Eve. At one point (pre-Covid), those numbers would have been 2,500 or higher. While it concerns me that overall numbers are lower than they once were, I am encouraged by strong support from those who were here. Thank you to all who consistently and generously support our parish community.

One of the fundraisers we regularly ran before Covid was the Cash Calendar. Tickets were sold in person on a weekly basis. There was a monthly drawing which gave away approximately \$2,000 a month in prizes and yielded the parish a profit of \$1,200-\$2,000 per month. After Covid we did not think we would have the support to continue this raffle on a monthly basis, so we switched to having quarterly drawings. For the winter, we call it the Winter Windfall. We give away over \$1,300 in prizes each drawing. For many of the drawings we gained a profit of about \$1,200, far less than when we held monthly drawings, but still a profit for the parish. During the Fall Fling we gave away more money than we took in. I'm not sure why there was a sharp decline, but if this pattern continues it no longer makes sense to maintain this program. I understand raffles are not for everyone, but if this appeals to you, we appreciate your support.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 15th	9:30 AM
• BAPTISM GATHERING	Wor. Ar./FJ Rm.
Monday, January 16th	9AM
• DAILY MASS	Worship Area
<i>(The Parish Office is closed for the holiday.)</i>	
Tuesday, January 17th	7 PM
• MOMS' GROUP	Fr. Joe Room
Wednesday, January 18th	6 PM & 7 PM
• LEVEL 1 CHURCH TOUR	Worship Area
• FINANCE COMMITTEE	7PM Fr. Joe Room
Thursday, January 19th	10 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY	Fr. Joe Room
• DRESS A GIRL	1-3PM Atrium
Sunday, January 22nd	1 PM
• BAPTISMS	Worship Area

Scripture Readings for January 22nd, 2023



- + Isaiah 8:23-9:3
- + 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
- + Matthew 4:12-23

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, January 21st/22nd



- 5:00 PM Fr. Frank
- 8:00 AM Fr. Frank
- 9:30 AM Fr. Michael/Dcn. Joe
- 11:30 AM Fr. Michael/Dcn. Joe

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, January 16th, for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There is a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

Coming Soon: The Chosen, Season 3

For those who have journeyed with us through Seasons 1 & 2 of The Chosen, the wait will be over soon!

We open with Season 3, Episode 1 on **Wed., Jan. 25 at 7:00 PM** and **Thurs., Jan. 26 at 1:30 PM**

Episodes 2 – 4 will be shown on **Feb. 1,2; Feb. 8,9; Feb. 15/16.**

We will resume with Episodes 5 – 8 beginning May 3,4.

If newcomers wish to join us, you are welcome, but viewing Seasons 1 & 2 beforehand (on YouTube, CFN, or the free Chosen app) is strongly recommended. Questions? Call Jude at ext. 116.

Please **print** and return to Parish Office **by January 20**. Space is limited.

I would like to attend The Chosen on _____ Wednesdays at 7PM or
_____ Thursdays at 1:30PM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____



LITURGY BYTES

Winter Ordinary Time



Now that we have celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, a/k/a “Little Christmas,” we move back into winter Ordinary Time which lasts about seven weeks. This season is more than just the change of color inside the church to green. It is our opportunity to hear once again about the ministry of Jesus and his teachings.

While “ordinary” in name, Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary, as it continues our celebrations of and participation in the Paschal mystery of Christ. We walk with Jesus during his public ministry and listen to his teaching and preaching. We are one with Jesus as he heals the sick, cures the lame, and raises his friend (Lazarus) from the dead.

We also stand with him when his followers listen to his word and when his enemies chase him out of town. Ordinary Time can give us an opportunity to think about the many ways our own lives are interweaved within Christ’s story and importantly how we are changed by our relationship with him.

We are also called year-round to consider the ways that the Eucharist demands our response in the form of action. The Mass brings us together and sends us forth to do the work of the Gospel each week.

As we enter winter Ordinary Time, perhaps we could reflect on and even share with others the ways that the Eucharist sends us forth. Can we loudly proclaim: “Here I am Lord, send me!”

May you all have a healthy, blessed, and safe week ahead! ~~*Michele Hall*

PARISH OUTREACH



Mobile Outreach Bus

Free Health Screenings and Flu Vaccinations

The Community Outreach team is pleased to offer free health screenings and **flu vaccinations** in your community by a Catholic Health registered nurse.



The Parish of the Holy Cross
95 Nichols Road
Nesconset, NY 11767
February 2, 2023
10am to 2pm

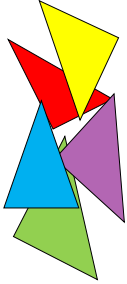
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- Blood pressure screening
- BMI screening
- Simple blood test for cholesterol and glucose
- Health education
- Referrals as needed
- Resources for those without insurance
- **Free flu vaccination** (senior dose available)

chsli.org

PARISH OUTREACH

Dress a Girl Around the World



Cut-Ups: (those who cut the material and assemble our dress kits)
Our “Cut-Ups” will meet **Thursday, January 19th, from 1 PM - 3 PM** in the atrium. We will continue cutting out dresses for the little ones in need. **Please RSVP to Outreach at 631-265-2200 (limited space available).** No skill required. All are welcome!

We are, once again, looking for donations of larger pieces of cotton fabric (2-3 yards) for the body of the dress. Thank you in advance for your constant support and generosity of our *Dress a Girl* ministry.



Stitch-Ups: (those who sew the dresses found in our dress kits)
Our “Stitch-Ups” are welcome to pick up completed dress kits by calling the Outreach Office at 631-265-2200. Everything you need to complete a dress is included in a kit including instructions. Any questions—we are just a phone call away! Thank you!

Heating Assistance

The 2022-2023 Emergency HEAP benefit has opened on January 3, 2023. If you are eligible, the Emergency HEAP benefit can help you heat your home if you are in a heat or heat related emergency. Emergency HEAP benefits and eligibility are based on: income, available resources, and the type of emergency. For help or more information, call Outreach at 621-265-2200 ext. 113.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Do You Need to Fulfill Your Marriage Prep Requirement?

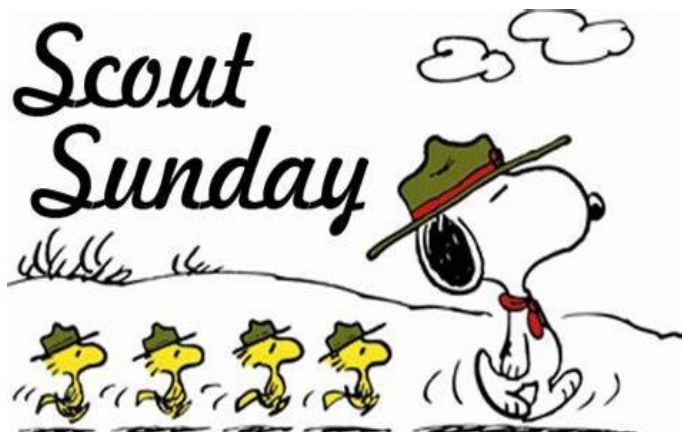
Engaged Encounter is an effective Pre-Cana program designed to provide you with the tools for a successful marriage.

Our next 2-day weekend will be held at the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington on March 18-19, 2023.

Visit longisland.engagedencounter.com for information and registration.



BOY SCOUT SUNDAY



Boy Scout Sunday

February 5, 2023 9:30 Mass

All Scouts are Welcome

Scouts should arrive 15 minutes early

Class "A" uniforms scouts & leaders

Please contact

Andy Bodor and Kim Loh Bodor

Akjl23@optonline.net or 516-996-2295

Bring your Troop/Pack Flag & Stand

*Please let us know how many scouts & leaders will be attending by **January 28th** so we can have enough reserved seating for your group.*

Save the Date: Girl Scout Sunday – March 5th

COLLECTION NEWS

Special Collections

This week at the offertory we will also be collecting for our **Regional School Support**. Next week we will also be collecting for **Church in Need** which gives assistance to churches in Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa. Thank you for your support of these important collections!

Statement of Contributions

A statement of your contributions to Holy Cross for the year 2022 will be sent to you upon request. If you would like a copy, please print your name and address on the form below and drop it in the collection basket or at the Parish Office.

Name _____

Address _____

**Thank you for
your support!**



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 16, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ:

Each year, our nation celebrates National Religious Freedom Day on January 16th. In 1992, Congress authorized the President to request to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to join together to celebrate their religious freedom and to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Since 1993, each President of the United States has proclaimed January 16th to be National Religious Freedom Day.

January 16th has been designated National Religious Freedom Day because it marks the anniversary of the passage of Thomas Jefferson's *Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom* by the Virginia General Assembly on January 16, 1786. This statute was a precursor to the First Amendment of the United States Constitution which, as we know, enshrines the freedom of religion as a right which is guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. In his statute, Jefferson states that "all men shall be free to profess ... their opinion in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities."¹ He concludes that any attempt to repeal or limit this statute "would be an infringement of natural right."²

Dignitatis humanae, the Second Vatican Council's 1965 Declaration on Religious Liberty, echoes Jefferson's sentiments and states that "the right to religious freedom has its foundation not in the subjective attitude of the individual but in his very nature."³ Elsewhere, the Declaration notes that "it is wrong for a public authority to compel its citizens by force or fear or any other means to profess or repudiate any religion."⁴ The similarity between the sentiments of Jefferson and *Dignitatis humanae* should not surprise us when we realize that American bishops and churchmen, including Father John Courtney Murray, were instrumental in incorporating the American experience of church-state relations into the declaration on religious liberty.⁵

Despite the time-honored assertion of religious freedom as a right guaranteed to all Americans, we have seen in recent years numerous attempts to curb or narrow the scope of religious liberty and freedom of conscience. The current Federal Administration's advocacy of a so-called "Super Rule," which is now awaiting final promulgation, threatens to egregiously and unjustly force Catholic medical institutions to be involved in procedures which are contrary to Church teaching and natural law. These would include abortion, sterilizations, in vitro fertilization, and transgender

¹ W.W. Hening, ed., *Statutes at Large of Virginia*, vol. 12 (1823): 84-86.

² *Ibid.*

³ Second Vatican Council, *Dignitatis humanae*, December 7, 1965: AAS 58 (1966) 929-946, 2.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 6.

⁵ See Robert T. Kennedy, "The Declaration on Religious Liberty Thirty Years Later: Challenges to the Church-State Relationship in the United States," *The Jurist* 55 (1995) 487.

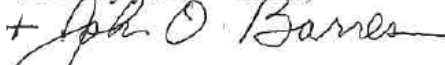
surgeries, even on minors. As diocesan bishop, it is my obligation to uphold and protect Catholic moral teaching, and our Catholic institutions will not participate in anything that forces healthcare workers to violate their consciences or the dignity of the human person.

The recent passage of the Respect for Marriage Act marks another threat to religious liberty. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has rightly called the Act “misnamed.”⁶ A statement released by the USCCB, notes that the Act’s “rejection of timeless truths about marriage is evident on its face and in its purpose.”⁷ As the largest non-governmental provider of social services in the United States, the Church has a vested interest in ensuring the protection of religious liberty. The supposed protections for religious liberty in the Act are insufficient, and the USCCB statement concludes that if it is passed, “the amended Act will put the ministries of the Catholic Church, people of faith, and other Americans who uphold a traditional meaning of marriage at greater risk of government discrimination.”⁸

This year, January 16 also marks the date when our country honors the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. King once stated that “the church must be reminded once again that it is not to be the master or the servant of the state, but the conscience of the state. It must be the guide and the critic of the state – never its tool.”⁹ As we celebrate National Religious Freedom Day this January 16th, let us pray for the preservation and protection of this God-given right:

Bless us, O heavenly Father,
in our vigilance for the gift of religious liberty.
Give us the strength of mind and heart
to readily defend our freedoms when they are threatened;
give us courage in making our voices heard
on behalf of the rights of your Church
and the freedom of conscience of all people of faith.
Amen.¹⁰

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

⁶ Timothy Cardinal Dolan and Bishop Robert Barron to Senators and Representatives, November 23, 2022. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington D.C.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “A Knock at Midnight” (sermon, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH, June 11, 1967).

¹⁰ See “Prayer for the Protection of Religious Liberty,” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (2012), Washington D.C.

TAKE A CHANCE!

Winter Windfall

For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine. This fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish. In addition, many parishioners enjoyed participating in it. Unfortunately, it was one of the many parts of parish life that was lost to COVID. At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing. And so, we introduce the "Winter Windfall." This is a similar idea, however it will be offered initially on a quarterly basis.



- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through December, January and February.
- Drawing will be held February 28.

Because we anticipate smaller participation, there will be a different pay scale:

- * 1 Prize @ \$250
- * 2 Prizes @ \$100
- * 10 Prizes @ \$50
- * 15 Prizes @ \$25



- This formula was based upon selling 250 tickets @ \$10 each. If more than 250 tickets are sold, the number of prizes will be increased. *(In the event the response is strong, we will resume a monthly drawing as soon as possible.)*
- Tickets will not be sold after Mass. Please use the tear-off tickets below. You may return your entries by placing them in an envelope and depositing it in the basket on weekends, or returning them to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your support!

Winter Windfall

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

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