

# The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +  
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.*



**Come and pray with us!**

**Second Sunday of Advent - December 10, 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  
Business Manager, 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
Ann Callari	Judy Carlson
Jason DeLuca	Manuela Diaz
Ann Egan	Ralph Farino
Yolanda Fattarusso	Sienna Fricke
Linda Heinrichs	Debbie Jablinowski
Kristen Kennedy	Roberta Lamb
Dora Libretti	Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch	Viola Malek
Jeanne Marie Malley	Olivia Melia
Loretto Narducci	Carina Ranieri
Liam Richards	Elaine Ruane
Casey Schultz	Kathy Schwinn
Barbara Sherry	Celeste Sichenze
Kyle Sweeney	Bill Tanner
Grace Van Epps	Peter Warns
Danny Youngworth	

## Upcoming Mass Intentions

### Week of Sunday, December 10, 9AM Masses

**Mon.** Charles Inghilterra  
**Tue.** John O'Shea Sr.  
**Wed.** Paul Fennessey  
**Thu.** Janet Shea (living)



### Saturday, December 16, 5PM Mass

Ronnie Graziose, Greg Wirth, Dave O'Riordan, Jim Fuller, John Joe Buckley

### Sunday, December 17, Third Sunday of Advent

**8:00 AM** Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto  
**9:30 AM** Linda Murphy, Gloria Posimato, Lisa Silvestri, James Cerone  
**11:30 AM** People of the Parish

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.

# IN ALL THE UNUSUAL PLACES

*by Father Michael*

Most of us prefer that our lives have a certain degree of balance. We try to structure life in such a way that there is a certain predictability. Routines keep us from having to decide every moment of our day. Responsibilities and relationships to others such as our family, our workplace, or even our church may impact and guide the way in which we live. Many of these points of reference are helpful and keep our lives moving forward in a fruitful way. It's not as though any of this is misguided or inappropriate. But, when it comes to experiencing the presence of Christ, the thoughts and activities of living our everyday life, may not apply. This is not some new-fangled thought, but it is rooted deeply in scripture. That is what we hear today.

The beginning of Mark's gospel immediately turns the focus to John the Baptist. There is nothing predictable or conventional in who John is or what he does. While proclaiming God's message, he does not do so from the temple; his place of ministry is the Jordan River. We hear that he literally lives on the fringe of society in the desert. He does not eat the traditional food nor does he dress in ways that would be expected. It is from this obscure voice that we hear proclaimed the message of Jesus. And in time, Jesus too will demonstrate that the way by which God's graciousness is revealed does not necessarily follow expected paths.

I'm not saying that all conventional wisdom and traditional structures should be thrown out the window. We often need those parameters in place to keep life in balance. They help to form our identity. They can offer real guidance and wisdom. We just can't limit or control God's Spirit to those same formats.

In the gospel, John speaks of two baptisms: one by water, the other by fire and the Holy Spirit. Most of us can name the time and place of our sacramental baptism by water which is, indeed, a holy and defining moment in life. But was that a moment in which we were caught up in the power and presence of God? Probably not, as most of us were just infants at the time. But can you name a time where you experienced a baptism by fire and the Holy Spirit? Can you remember an experience where you knew in your heart you were a child of God and God's Spirit was burning within? For me, I had moments like that in a retreat house in New Mexico, a convention center in California, and even in the midst of a pandemic. God spoke abundantly in times, places, and ways I never would have expected. As the season of Advent continues, may we allow the words of John the Baptist to keep us focused in all the unusual places where God's grace may be revealed to us. Come, Lord Jesus!

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Saturday, December 9th</b>	<b>6 PM</b>
• YOUTH NIGHT-ACOUSTIC CAFÉ	Atrium
<b>Sunday, December 10th</b>	<b>1 PM</b>
• BAPTISMS	Worship Area
<b>Monday, December 11th</b>	<b>4 - 6 PM</b>
• SPECIAL NEEDS	Atrium
• MEN'S PRAYER GROUP	7PM Chapel
• CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEARSAL	Fr. Joe Room
<b>Tuesday, December 12th</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• RCIA	7PM Fr. Joe Room
<b>Thursday, December 14th</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
• WOMEN'S BIBLE CIRCLE	Fr. Joe Room
• CHRISTMAS CHOIR REHEAR.	7PM Worship Area
• CHILDREN'S LIT. PLNG. MTG.	Fr. Joe Room
<b>Sunday, December 17th</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
• RITE OF WELCOME	Worship Area

## *Scripture Readings for December 17, 2023*



- + *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*
- + *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*
- + *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

## Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, December 16th/17th



5:00 PM	Fr. Michael
8:00 AM	Fr. Michael
9:30 AM	Fr. Frank
11:30 AM	Fr. Frank

## Special Collections

The **Religious Retirement Collection** will take place in all parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre this weekend. Please show our thanks for the service our elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have given us!

Next weekend we will also be collecting for our **Repairs and Major Renovations** fund. Thank you for your continued support!

## Men's Prayer Group

**Upcoming Meeting -**  
Monday, December 11th, at 7:00 PM

## Low-Gluten Hosts

For parishioners who have Celiac Disease or a gluten sensitivity, Holy Cross has low-gluten hosts. If you would like to receive a low-gluten host during Communion, please inform the Sacristan prior to Mass.

## Hearing Devices

For parishioners who have difficulty hearing, Holy Cross has individual devices which can amplify sound. They are simple to use and work for those who wear hearing aids and those who do not. If you are interested in using one of these devices, please see the Sacristan or an Usher prior to Mass.

## Dress a Girl Around the World

We will NOT be meeting on December 14th. Thank you to all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication to this ministry. We will meet again on **January 18th at 1pm**. We wish you all a peaceful Advent season and a joyous Christmas!

## Remember "Kevin Bacon"



Don't forget to feed "Kevin Bacon" your quarters when you come to Mass on Sundays! Your donation benefits **Heifer International**.

# COME JOIN US!

## HELP WANTED

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is coming back in January, twice a month at the 11:30 AM Mass. Children grades 1 - 4 gather in the Fr. Joe Room for 15 - 20 minutes during Mass.

### Volunteers are needed:

- **Leaders** - Adults, High School Juniors or Seniors to lead the children in their own Liturgy of the Word (Training and materials are provided.)
- **Helpers** - Older children (5<sup>th</sup> grade and up) to assist the leaders
- **Musicians** - Guitarists, Keyboardists, Vocalists to add music to the experience



Questions? Interested? Please call Jude at ext. 116.

## Christmas Choir



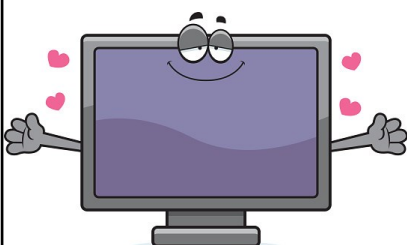
We will be rehearsing for the **Christmas Eve 10 PM Mass.**

Join us at 7PM on  
December 11, 14 & 21  
for rehearsal!

## Help Needed!



The **HCTV Ministry** that runs the slides at the weekend Masses, is looking ahead to **Christmastime**. Because December 24th lands on the Fourth Sunday in Advent this year, they are going to need a lot of extra help running the slides at the Masses.

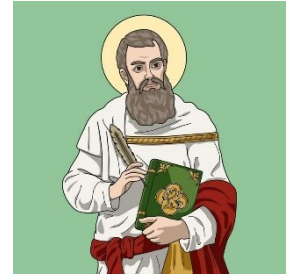


From Saturday, December 23rd, to Monday, Christmas Day, there will be **ten Masses to cover**. If you are a regular parishioner, high school student, or even a college student home for the holidays, please consider helping.

Please call **Wendy at 631-724-0930** if interested. Training included. **Thank you!**

# LITURGY BYTES

## The Gospel of Mark



As we embark on the new year in the Church, we will hear from the Gospel according to St. Mark. This Gospel is the shortest of all New Testament gospels and the first to be written. It also contains much of Jesus' ministry in more detail than we hear in Matthew and Luke. The opening verse about good news in Mark 1:1 serves as a title for the entire book. The key verses of Mark 1:14-15 summarize what Jesus proclaims as gospel: fulfillment, the nearness of the kingdom, and the need for repentance and for faith.

In Mark's gospel, Jesus is portrayed as immensely popular with the people in Galilee during his ministry. He appoints twelve disciples to help preach and drive out demons just as he does. He continues to work many miracles—healings, feeding of crowds of people—and in Mark 7, he teaches about the Word of God over the tradition of the elders. Opposition continues, with many saying that Jesus is possessed. His own relatives think that he is out of his mind. All too often, his own disciples do not even understand him.

Mark's gospel is partly geographical, seeing him in Galilee, the area across the Jordan and through Jericho to Jerusalem. Rarely does Jesus go into Gentile territory. His gospel is also oriented to Christology. We read of passages saying Jesus is the Son of God, anointed King of David's ancestry. He also is seen as the Son of Man, a term used in Mark not simply as a substitute for "I" or for humanity in general or with reference to a mighty figure who is to come.

As the story unfolds in Mark's gospel, Jesus is sometimes viewed around the term mystery. There is a sense that Jesus' real identity remained a secret during his lifetime. Mark depicts the person of Jesus as someone very natural. He reacts to events with human emotion like pity, anger, triumph, sympathy, surprise, admiration, sadness, and indignation.

John Mark is credited with writing most of it. It is believed that he was a cousin of Barnabas and also accompanied Barnabas and Paul on missionary journeys. Tradition says it was written shortly before 70 AD in Rome, at a time of persecution and much destruction looming over Jerusalem. Its audience seems to have been Gentile, unfamiliar with Jewish customs. Take a look each week this year, as we experience the Gospel according to Mark!

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*



# CHRISTMAS MASSES

## **Christmas 2023 Mass Schedule** **The Nativity of the Lord**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

*Saturday, December 23rd @ 5:00PM*  
*Sunday, December 24th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM*

### **Christmas Eve**

*Sunday, December 24th*  
*4:00PM, 6:00PM & 10:00PM*

### **Christmas Day**

*Monday, December 25th*  
*8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM*

### **Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

*Saturday, December 30th @ 5:00PM*  
*Sunday, December 31st @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM*

### **Solemnity of Mary**

*Sunday, December 31st @ 5:00PM*  
*Monday, January 1st @ 10:00AM*

### **Confessions**

*Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM*  
*Wednesdays after the 9:00AM Mass*  
*Monday, December 18th: After the 9:00AM Mass*  
*and 6:30PM to 7:30PM*

## **Christmas Mass Intentions**



In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Christmas Masses, there are cards in the atrium on which to write your special intentions. These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Christmas Masses.



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

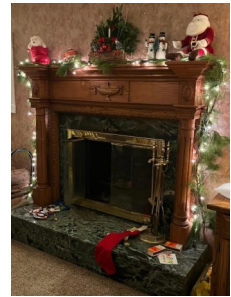
Here are some pictures of our Level 1 students making their Advent wreaths!





# RAFFLE WINNERS

On Saturday, December 2nd, the Raffle winners of "A Dinner at Father Michael's" enjoyed a fun evening and a delicious dinner. Here are some pictures!



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## The Life Center of Long Island

With the Christmas season upon us, parishes across Long Island are embracing those in our communities that are in great need. The Life Center appreciates those who give and realizes that these same saints in the making always seem to be asked to give more.

The Life Center does not wish to burden them, so their request is rather simple. They are not asking anyone to go out and purchase new items that may strain their own budgets. They are seeking gently used children's clothing and baby supplies. Their greatest needs currently are...



- Boys' and girls' coats in all sizes up to 4T
- Boys' clothing sizes 18mn, 24mn, 2T, 3T, 4T
- Girls' clothing sizes 0-3mn, 6mn, 12mn, 2T, 3T, 4T

They are happy to accept used items as long as they are presentable. Please contact them if you have items to donate:

Mary Regina Bebber, Director of Client Services  
91 Maple Avenue, Smithtown, NY 11787  
631-656-0441 [www.lifecenterli.org](http://www.lifecenterli.org)

# 2023 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

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*One Family - Journeying together in  
Communion, Participation and Mission*



*“Advent, then, is a time for overturning our perspectives ... for letting ourselves be surprised by the greatness of God’s mercy.”  
-Pope Francis*

## Pause and Reflect this Advent Season

**During Advent we are called to slow down during the frenetic season of shopping, visiting friends and family, baking, wrapping gifts and perhaps even studying for finals.**

Are you still struggling to get a unique present for someone special? Consider a gift for all seasons – a donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. It’s a special gift that touches the lives of over 600,000 people by supporting programs that allow us to build a community of faith, hope and love in our diocese and beyond.

How does the **Catholic Ministries Appeal Care for God’s People**? It supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs, providing food and nutrition to more than 15,000 people.



**Have you tried Text-to-Give to make a donation?  
It’s fast and secure.**

**Go to the following link to find your parish’s  
keyword: [bit.ly/3VFrMCE](https://bit.ly/3VFrMCE)**

**TEXT your parish’s Keyword to:  
(516) 271-3338**

***Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in someone’s life. Thank you!***

Make checks payable to: Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish Parish of the Holy Cross-176

Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Down payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

To make a donation, you can also visit **CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org**  
or call us at **516-678-5800 ext. 296**

Thank You!

# TAKE A CHANCE!

## Winter Windfall

For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine, and this fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish. At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing, so we will continue as we have done for the past few years with our quarterly drawing.



- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through December, January and February.
- Drawing will be held **February 29**.

This is the pay scale which will be offered:

- \* 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.
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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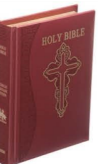
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