

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.*

Merry Christmas!



Come and pray with us!

4th Sunday in Advent - December 24, 2023
& The Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 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

Sunday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve Masses
4, 6 & 10 PM All Prayer Card Intentions

Monday, Dec. 25th, Christmas Masses
8, 9:30 & 11:30 AM All Prayer Card Intentions

Week of Sunday, December 24th, 9AM Masses

Tue. Sophie Burns

Wed. Craig Monaghan

Thu. Addy Milano (living)

Saturday, December 30th, 5PM Mass

Rose Marinelli, Robert Tavis, Vito Perrone, Judith A. Nolan, Michael Cono

Sunday, December 31st, Holy Family

8:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM Michael Corcoran

11:30 AM Vincenzo Baratta, Maria Eannacone,
Mary Perrotta, James Petrunaro,
Michael Allegra, Gerard O'Hara

Sunday, December 31st, Solemnity of Mary Vigil

5:00 PM Jane & John J. Daly

Monday, January 1st, Solemnity of Mary

10:00 AM Vito Ligabo



CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

by Father Michael

If you ever have had the experience of sharing in the gift of a newborn child, you know what a rich moment it is. You cannot help but be drawn to the wonder and miracle of this new little person. You tend to put aside worries and distractions and be deeply immersed in the moment. The experience allows you to look at life differently, if only for a few moments. There is something unifying to everyone who shares in that moment. You look at life through the eyes of a newborn. You reflect upon what kind of world this child will experience.



The story of salvation is fascinating. Of all the ways God could have revealed his presence, he chose to send Jesus. God wanted the gift of his son to be unmistakably real and abundantly close. His entrance into the world in many ways mirrors the birth of your own children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. God could not have come up with an easier and more engaging way to experience the coming of his son. Do we allow this miracle to touch our hearts, or do we take a step back? There can be a tendency to make God so powerful and awesome that we believe he is out there somewhere beyond our reach. Those are conclusions we come to on our own. It was not the gift or experience offered to us.

Throughout salvation history God has reached out to express his unity and connection to his children. From the very beginning of creation, God breathed his presence into all that he made. We need not look any further than what God has created to be reminded of his presence. There is a litany of stories of how God has been heroically at work in the lives of countless men and women. But on this day, we celebrate in a very unique way the gift of the Lord Jesus. Allow what has been offered to us to help transform our lives. As we look at the many challenges that surround us, may we be reminded that paths to resolution will never be found if we alone try to be the source of all answers. We need to allow the power of what has been given to us, not only to transform our hearts, but see it as a path to transforming our world.

Allow me to use this opportunity to express my gratitude to the many people who bring life to Holy Cross. We are blessed to have a caring and committed Pastoral Team and Staff who continue to reflect the kindness and compassion of our Lord to all who visit and call us. The work of our many ministries would not take place without the sacrifice and commitment of so many ministers. You often become the one who also brings that presence of Christ to so many. Thank you to all who regularly support us through your financial contributions. We are grateful for your generosity.

Christmas blessings to you and your loved ones on this holy day!

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 24th 4,6 & 10 PM
 • CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES Worship Area

Monday, December 25th 8, 9:30 & 11:30AM
 • CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES Worship Area
(The Parish Office is closed for Christmas.)

Tuesday, December 26th 9 AM
 • DAILY MASS Worship Area
(The Parish Office is closed today.)

Thursday, December 28th 10 AM
 • WOMEN'S BIBLE CIRCLE Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, December 31st 5 PM
 • SOLEMNITY OF MARY VIGIL Worship Area

Monday, January 1st 10 AM
 • SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS Worship Area
(The Parish Office is closed for New Year's Day.)

Scripture Readings for December 31, 2023



+ Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3
 + Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19
 + Luke 2:22-40

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, December 30th/31st



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

The Bread and Wine for the week December 24th - 30th have been donated in loving memory of Anthony DeVito Jr. by his family.



Holy Cross Travel Club Save the Date: March 21-22, 2024 Lancaster & "Daniel"

- Lancaster Marketplace
- Performance of "Daniel" at the Sight and Sound Theater
- Dinner in the home of an Amish Family
- Green Dragon Market
- *Plus: Special Mystery Stop*

Pricing and booking information will be available in January.

PARISH NEWS



Merry Christmas!

Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas greetings and expressions of good wishes. In all the ways you show your generosity, it is greatly appreciated. Your kindness fills us with gratitude, for you are our greatest gift. As this year of 2023 comes to a close, we pray that this coming year will be filled with peace in your hearts, in your homes and in our world. We pray that we will all grow in love of God and that we will find His joy in each other as we serve His people together.

Fr. Michael, Dcn. Joe, Jude, Michele, Tricia, Kelley, Brian,
Mary, Jane, Karina, Vince, Roberto, Mary & Stephanie

A great big THANK YOU to our wonderful Pantry teams who volunteer monthly to sort and stock food donations for our Outreach Pantry. Your help and dedication to the Outreach Pantry is greatly appreciated. Thank you! Our Pantry Team members are Tom McCulloch, MaryAnn Viscusi, Allaire Sheehy, Anne Abbate, Regina Dawson, Myra Plescia and Michele Alderdice.

Congratulations and thanks to all the winners at our Christmas Raffle and to all those who supported our efforts with a ticket purchase. We are grateful for your help in making the Christmas Raffle a success! Also, thank you to all who volunteered to organize, set up, and sell tickets after Masses for our Raffle. The Raffle would not have been a success without your help and dedication. Thank you!

Women's Prayer Group

Women's Prayer Group will resume meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month, beginning **January 4th** from **7:00 – 8:00 PM** in the Chapel.
All women in the parish are welcome.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word is back! Join us on the first and third Sundays of the month at 11:30 Mass beginning January 7. All children grades 1-4 are welcome. Helpers are also invited, grades 5 and up.



LITURGY BYTES

Merry Christmas

We made it, and now it is Christmas! Did you know Christmas is an actual liturgical season that lasts through the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord? Be prepared to hear Christmas carols at Mass through the weekend of January 6 and 7, as the Baptism of the Lord falls on Monday, January 8, this year! Many blessings and happy moments are shared by one and all at this time of the year.



On the weekend in between Christmas and New Year's, the Church celebrates another beautiful feast, that of the Holy Family. I have a beautiful statue of the Holy Family given to me by some special people many years ago that has sat in my bedroom on my dresser for the past 35+ years. I think about the significance of it more than ever at this time of the year. This feast celebrates the sanctity of the holy family but also celebrates the family unit.

Devotion to the Holy Family became more popular during the 15th century mainly through works of art. It was during that time that the Holy Family was presented as the ideal for Christian families which is still most important today. In 1921, the feast was a liturgical celebration in the Church, added to the Roman calendar by Pope Benedict XV. Since 1969, the feast has been celebrated during the season of Christmas.

This is a day for all of us to reflect on our own family life. It is a day people can think about how they can strengthen communication between all family members and perhaps how to heal past wounds. What a wonderful example we have to guide us and our families by looking at Jesus' earthly family!

Have a most blessed season with good health and happiness! ~~ *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

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 intentions will be prayed for at all the Christmas Masses.

PARISH OUTREACH

An Outreach Christmas Thank You 2023

We were once again blessed with a tremendous response to our Christmas Angel project. Our struggling households were so very grateful for the gift cards for their families. As parents and family members, we can appreciate how good it is to provide for our children's needs. Enabling these moms and dads to do the same accomplishes so much more than just handing them a gift someone else has bought. They can now provide in a way they couldn't before.



This year we helped 44 families with clothing and toys for 143 individuals, including 52 children. We collected enough gift cards to provide each person with approximately \$25 for clothing (or gift of their choice) and an additional \$25 per child for their toy requests. Also, each household received a supermarket card to help with their holiday meal. This means we collected and distributed over \$7,000 in store cards to our Outreach families. We also collected and distributed approximately \$2,000 in supermarket cards for their holiday meal.

Thank you so much for bringing the Light of Jesus' Birth to those who struggle each and every day. You are truly special ANGELS! Christ is born again every time we choose to give to another, walk with another or empower another.

In addition, the parish also provided gifts to the following agencies:

- 114 Gifts to our friends at Olsen's Rest Home
- 23 Gifts to Mercy Haven
- 250 Gifts to Pronto in Brentwood
- 185 Gifts to Talbot House

As you can see, all those hairbrushes, packs of Kleenex and socks add up! Thank you everyone for your support of our Angel program and these agencies.

Our Christmas Angel Program takes a phenomenal effort that requires many volunteers to accomplish. A very big "THANK YOU" to angel cutters, pantry stockers, sorting elves, gift deliverers, Christmas envelope stuffers and ALL those who donated money, gift cards and special donations which helped us and our families so much. Your generosity always amazes me. A special thank you to Michele Alderdice, an Outreach Core Volunteer, who helped make this busy season much easier. I do not know what I would have done without her. Thank you, Michele!

THANK YOU seems an inadequate way to express our appreciation. I wish you and your families a Very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Peace,
Kelley

BRING A FRIEND!

7th - 12th grade

For YOUTH

*Leading Teens
Closer to Christ*

at the Parish of the Holy Cross

**COME AND JOIN US!
"BREAKFAST
FOR DINNER"**

**SATURDAY AFTER MASS
6PM - 8PM
HOLY CROSS ATRIUM**

JOIN US ON THIS DATE

Jan 20th

WHY JOIN US?

- YOU'LL GET DINNER & DESSERT
- PLAY GAMES
- HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS IN A SAFE PLACE
- FAITH & FRIENDSHIP
- LISTEN TO MUSIC
- COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



**SCAN
HERE
TO
REGISTER**

**INSTAGRAM.COM/HCFORYOUTH
YOUTHGROUP@HOLYCROSSRC.ORG**



Virtus Class for Volunteers in the Diocese of Rockville Centre

A person wishing to volunteer in any parish or organization in the Diocese of Rockville Centre must first complete three requirements:

1. Attend Protecting God's Children (Virtus)
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screening application

(Background screening is conducted on all volunteers and employees every 5 years)

Directions to Complete the 3 Requirements:

1. Sign up to attend a Protecting God's Children class: www.Virtus.org
 - a. If you have not attended a Virtus class, you are a first-time registrant.
 - b. The first screen will ask the name of your organization - from the drop down list select Rockville Centre – Safe Environment.
 - c. Follow all directions on the next screens.
 - d. One screen will have the Codes of Conduct. Please acknowledge the Codes of Conduct.
 - e. Continue with the registration process and select the class you will attend.
 - f. After selecting the class, you will be instructed to complete the background screening application.
2. Background Screening Application:
 - a. Sterling Volunteers is the company providing the background screening.
 - b. Follow all the directions to complete the background screening application. **DO NOT STOP ONCE YOU BEGIN THE APPLICATION!** If you stop, you are locked out of the process due to security procedures.
 - c. You will need to provide your Social Security #; if you do not provide a Social Security # you will be charged a fee by the Diocese.
 - d. After completing the application, hit the "submit" button.

The next class offered at Holy Cross will be held on Wednesday, January 3rd, 2024 at 6pm. Please register for this class from the Virtus website. No walk-ins will be admitted. Please contact Tricia Clarke at 631-265-2200 x112 for more information.



Christmas Flowers in Honor/Memory of...



We remember and pray for all our loved ones -
those living and those who have gone before us.

DONALD CABELLA
 SCHOLL FAMILY
 SOKEL FAMILY
 JELINEK FAMILY
 EDWARDS FAMILY
 IRENE KUCZWAJ
 WALTER KUCZWAJ
 VIRGINIA MAKOWSKI
 EDMUND MAKOWSKI
 GEORGE W. HOLST
 BEATRICE E. HOLST
 DAVID MCKINLEY
 SAM & VIRGINIA CHASINOV
 JOE & LUCY LESCINSKI
 VIVIAN & HAL CULVER
 JOHN & ELEANOR DAVENPORT
 THOMAS MINTER
 PEDRO BANAGUAS
 GUILLERMA BANAGUAS
 JOSEPH FERRARA
 DAVID FERRARA
 JIM EMERSON
 MARY EMERSON-REED
 ANNE MATTERA
 EMMA EMERSON
 JOSEPH BRINDISI JR.
 MARY HUMPHRIES
 JOHN HUMPHRIES
 PAT MOSCA
 JOHN P. ONOFRIO
 ANTHONY DeVITO JR.
 DOMINICK TESTA
 ANNA TESTA
 ANTHONY DeVITO SR.
 LUCILLE DeVITO
 ANTHONY TESTA
 ANNE CALIA
 GERALDINE CAMMARATA
 MARIE PUPPA
 FRANK PUPPA
 MARGARET LEPTICH
 PETER LEPTICH
 ANTHONY JOHNSON JR.
 SUSAN EHR
 LAURA & ALFRED IZZO
 PAT DELPRETE JR.
 ANNE & LOUIS ROMEO
 LUISA & VINCENZO ZEZIMA
 GRACE & JOSEPH PARISI
 EVELYN & SONNY GIRARDI
 NICHOLAS SVERCEL
 JOSEPH SVERCEL
 JOHN & SUSAN O'SULLIVAN
 MARIA M. FAVA
 LOUIS & ROSE CABASINO

ROBERT A. PATTERSON II
 WILLIAM RYDER
 DOROTHY & HAROLD KOHLER
 HAROLD KOHLER JR.
 LOUISE KOHLER
 RAY & KAY ANZALONE
 TOM & LEE MARTINO
 ANNMARIE POLIZZI
 EILEEN CATANIA
 VINCENT MURPHY
 VINCENT INGRISANO
 NORA INGRISANO
 JEAN LAURO
 MARIE & CHARLES DIFALCO
 M/M NICHOLAS LAMB
 M/M WILLIAM McQUADE
 JOAN MESSINA
 DOROTHY LOGAN
 DENIS LOGAN
 ILLIA GILMORE
 ROBERT GILMORE
 PAT STAUFFER
 TERESA WENZ
 SUE GATTA
 NICHOLAS GATTA
 EVELYN BRONZINO
 ROCCO BRONZINO
 CELESTE E. BABI
 JOSEPH M. BABI
 BIAGIO CHIRAFISI
 ANTHONY LICAUSI
 VIOLA MALEK
 JAMES & GERTRUDE COGLIANO
 JOSEPH & JULIA MALEK
 BRONISLAW MARCHEWKA
 EDMUND KARWOWSKI
 ANNA KARWOWSKA
 ANN & JIM BRENNAN
 RICHARD P. CANALINI
 ADA & NICK CANALINI
 THERESA & ANTHONY CARACCILO
 TARA LAPORTA
 ARTHUR RIVERS
 KATHY RIVERS
 VICTOR PERIRA
 SUSAN MANUEL
 JOHN GIBBONS
 M/M JAMES ZANFINI
 ELIZABETH A. SHEA
 WILLIAM F. SHEA
 JAMES EVANS
 MARYLYN EVANS
 MANUEL B. CAPELLA
 J.S. KULESZA
 KAZIMIERZ KULESZA

CZESLAWA WOLCZAK
 HALINA GROSFELD
 SAL & JOAN DIBERNARDO
 DONALD & MARY REID
 VINCENT PELLICCIO
 RICHARD CATAPANO JR.
 MASON FAMILY
 ROHAN FAMILY
 MORENO FAMILY
 O'CONNOR FAMILY
 MICHAEL J. O'CONNOR
 HOLT FAMILY
 CARNEY FAMILY
 FERRARO FAMILY
 ANNE & THOMAS COYNE
 PAUL KRUK
 PAULINE KRUK
 TED KRUK
 MARIE MORRIS
 JEAN & PASQUALE BASILE
 PATRICK O'BRIEN
 RONALD DANDREA
 GLORIA DANDREA
 GAETANA GROBLUSKI
 GEORGE GROBLUSKI
 THERESA WEISS
 THOMAS WHITE
 BERTHA STISO
 ALLISON STISO
 GLENN WARREN
 JAMES LECHNER
 MARION BUDREO
 HAROLD BUDREO
 M/M P. FRICIONE
 FRED & DOLORES SCHANTZ
 HENRY & LILLIAN BETZ
 OFFICER VINCENT PELLICCIO
 ROSE & DOMINICK CARDONE
 ANGELINA, JOE & TONY FRANGOSE
 ROSE GICOLA
 RITA & MARK CASTELLUZZI
 IDA, FRANKIE & JOHNNY KOTARSKI
 RITA MONJELLO
 JOHN MONJELLO
 NATALIE DIFAZIO
 SEBASTIAN DIFAZIO
 THERESA BRESCIA
 MICHAEL BRESCIA
 RICHARD BORRILLO
 LILLIE MILITO
 JOHN STARACE
 GRACE GRESALFI
 ANNE RUDNICKI
 EDWARD RUDNICKI
 SARAH MOORE

Christmas Flowers in Honor/Memory of...

We remember and pray for all our loved ones -
those living and those who have gone before us.



LEON RUDNICKI
LUIS SIMOES
MARIA SIMOES
FRANCISCO DIAS
ROSA DIAS
JOSEPH F. MARCUCCI
GEORGE & SADIE PENZAVECCHIA
JON RAUGALAS
JOSEPH PENZAVECCHIA
JAMES & JANE PENZAVECCHIA
JOSEPHINE PORCELLI
CHARLES PORCELLI
FRANCES MALAZDRA
DIANE JONES
JANIS CHIECA
BRUNO SANTINA
RICHARD SANTINA
GLENN SIMPSON
BENVENUTO MONACO
FRANCES MONACO
PAUL COLLURA
THOMASSINA COLLURA
GAYLE SMITH
ANN & DOMINICK TRIFILETTI
ANTHONY & FANNY MAURO
CLARENCE & BESSIE KENYON
SALVATORE & BESSIE TRIFILETTI
JAMES PICKEL
DAMIEN PICKEL
MARY CONLIN
PICKEL FAMILY
CONLIN FAMILY
JOHN & JOSEPHINE O'SHEA
JOHN SCHULTZ
CATHERINE BERDON
BOB GRONENTHAL
LINDA MURPHY
ROSE SCHREIBER
CHARLES G. SCHREIBER
JEAN BRUNO
VINCENT BRUNO
BARTOLOTTA FAMILY
ARNONI FAMILY
CASDIA FAMILY
LICATA FAMILY
AMENDOLIA FAMILY
MARY ANDERSON
MICHAEL SAVAGE
ANNE SAVAGE
PAT & JIM SAVAGE
PETER & ROSEMARIE GRAUS
TERRI & DAVID LAMPACH
EDWARD, ELAINE & LINDSAY LAMPACH
JANET KERRIGAN
FRANK & ANN SLATTERY
FRANCIS & MAE MCCUTCHEN

SEAN SLATTERY
KIERAN & ANNE BEVIN
ERNEST GRIMES
LINDA SCHAEFER
HARRY SCHROEDER
GARPAR & MARY LOMBARDO
HAROLD & ANN YAGER
THOMAS McDEVITT
JOSEPH PARZIALE
ELIZABETH ARMENTI
NICHOLAS ARMENTI
MARIANNA KOJS
JAN KOJS
HELENA DRABIK
JAN DRABIK
SOTTUNG FAMILY
DUMINUCO FAMILY
KATIE MODELL
DIANE MUELLERS
GREGORY WIRTH
ANN & CECIL WIRTH
ESTELLE & DOUG STERNBERG
JOHN STERNBERG
GLADYS & HENRY COLBAN
MARY & JIM SCHULTZ
BURNS FAMILY
LIPNICKI FAMILY
PELECK FAMILY
O'HANLON FAMILY
CANNIZZARO FAMILY
RAYMOND W. CONWAY
DOROTHY CONWAY
RAYMOND M. CONWAY
ANN BIRKINS
MARY E. CARDWELL
NORA SHEEHY
RYAN FAMILY
PLUME FAMILY
FITZPATRICK FAMILY
FARRUGGIA FAMILY
M/M F. MORACO
M/M RAIBALDI
MARYANN & FRANK SAGGIO
STEPHEN THOMPSON
GEORGE F. RAPLEE
GLENN RAPLEE
EVELYN MACCARO
WILLIAM MACCARO
HEDWIG LEWANDOWSKI
ANNA BELL
LUCIA VITALE TRAINO
TOMAS MATTA
FELICE DiPERNA
SHIRLEY BAAS
WILLIAM BAAS
SAMANTHA RANDAZZO

PAUL KASPERSKI
SANDRA SAFIANOW
ILENE ACARLI
ROSALIE PUMA
ZALESKI SIBLINGS
MICHAEL VERDI
SCHNURR FAMILY
BURSKY FAMILY
CARMELLA & MICHAEL TERRANOVA
THOMAS BROPHY
JOSEPH TERRANOVA
JAMES CERONE
MARIE GALLO
PETER GALLO
VINCENT GALLO
NANCY SIBLANO
JESSICA & JOSE JIMENEZ
JENNIFER & CHRIS SCHELMETY
VANESSA & FRANCIS
ED & PILAR MODZEL
FORTE FAMILY
LEVANDI FAMILY
JACK HARRIS
LCPL JACOB T. LAMM
ALEC ROSS
FRANK PERRINO
BERTHA & FRANK PERRINO
ITALIANO FAMILY
CONNIE & JAMES MACLEESE
MARGE & KENNETH BARCHI
JOHN E. COOK
STEVEN F. TOCCI
SR. MAUREEN COOK
MANETTE COOK
ANN & ALFRED ZIMMERMANN
CAROL KLOETZER
JOHN FAUSONE
FAMILY
JOSEPH RINALDI
KATHLEEN & JIM MUNOZ
KATHRYN MUNOZ
TONY & ANN AGOSTINO
GRACE TYRER
KENNETH TYRER
IRENE FOERTSCH
MEREDITH FOERTSCH
THOMAS F. DUNN
SARAH LAMARTINA
JOSEPH LAMARTINA
THOMAS & FREIDA DUNN
ANNE & EDMUND MERLO
JOSEPHINE, FLORENCE &
ALBERT SASSANO
RICHARD ROSSELLI
DOMINICK & MARY VERDI
SALVATORE & JOSEPHINE ROSSELLI
DENNIS ROSSELLI



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2023

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In recent years at Christmas, I have meditated on the relationship between the Nativity of the Prince of Peace and the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

I have been especially inspired by Pope Francis' analysis of the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the second chapter of his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. It is powerful and provocative, and I would recommend it for your mental prayer.

The short phrase in the Christmas Gospel narrative in the second chapter of the Gospel of Luke reads: "She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

"No room for them in the inn." No Good Samaritan stepped up to help the Holy Family. They were ignored and treated perfunctorily and impatiently. Some passed them by. Some pretended not to notice their plight.

Remember too that in the Parable of the Good Samaritan an "inn" is also mentioned. Luke 10 reads: "But a Good Samaritan while traveling came near him, and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn and took care of him."

The inn that the Holy Family approaches on the way to Bethlehem is a sign of rejection and indifference.

The inn in the Parable of the Good Samaritan is a sign of the Good Samaritan's compassion and commitment to go the extra mile and to make sure that the wounded man is taken care of until he is completely healed.

Contemporary literary criticism might very well emphasize that the use of "inn" by the Gospel writer in both the Nativity in Luke 2 and the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 is not by accident.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

In a sense, the phrase “there was no room at the inn” in the Nativity foreshadows and connects with the phrase in the Parable of the Good Samaritan describing the callous indifference of both the priest and the Levite toward the wounded man on the side of the road: “[H]e passed by on the other side.”

As Pope Francis says in *Fratelli Tutti*: “Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders.”¹

Our Lady, St. Joseph and the unborn Christ Child experienced the reality of people who decided to be indifferent bystanders.

The Christmas Gospel narrative from Luke 2 poses a question which is posed again later in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10.

Will we be Good Samaritans?

Or will we be indifferent bystanders?

As the Holy Father reminds us, we make that choice every day.

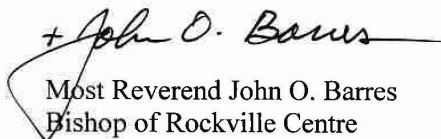
May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Nativity Mystery. May the Good Samaritan Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness and peace unite us in solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering, especially in the Middle East, Ukraine and all war-ravaged areas of the world.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

May the Light and Love of the Christ Child animate and guide our global Catholic Missionary Spirit on this Christmas night and throughout the New Year.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ Francis, encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, October 4, 2020: AAS 112 (11) 969-1074, at no. 70.

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!

<p style="text-align: center;">Winter Windfall</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Town _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Winter Windfall</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Town _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Winter Windfall</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Town _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Winter Windfall</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Town _____</p> <p>Phone _____</p>



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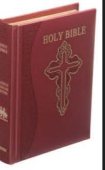
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