

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!

The Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2022

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
Matthew DiPietro	Ann Egan
Jim Emerson	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 December 25th, 2022, 9AM Mass

Mon. Sophie Burns
Tue. Max Hafker (living) &
Jenna Pobjecky (living)
Wed. Miryam Balasteros (living) &
Angelica Palacio (living)
Thu. Mary Leto

Saturday, December 31st, 5 PM Mass

Jane & John J. Daly, Deacon George Reich, James Reynolds Jr., Mary Morgan, Sarah Driscoll

Sunday, January 1st, Solemnity of Mary

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Maria Eannacone
11:30 AM Vito Ligabo, Robert Alderdice Jr.,
Thomas Callan, Freddie Meyers



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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

The Wonder of a Child

by Father Michael

Christmas Blessings to you and your loved ones. May this be a day of joy for you as you share in the festivities and traditions of the day. May it also be a time to remind ourselves of the rich story we share in, that God has come among us to bring life and hope.



I don't know why, but this has been a year that I'm sharing in many stories of people experiencing the birth of a new child. It's not as though the number of baptisms here is dramatically increasing. But between parishioners, friends and co-workers, I know many people who have been blessed with the gift of a new child or grandchild. I've been looking at a lot of pictures, and they are precious. I have seen unbounded joy in the eyes of parents, grandparents, and family. There is something grounding and wondrous in the birth of a child. You look at life differently. The future takes on new meaning.

God could have chosen to send his son into the world in so many ways. How beautiful it is that we tell the story of God taking on human flesh and coming into the world in the form of a newborn child. The opportunity to know God becomes abundantly easier when there is a connection to such a deep human experience. Although we tell this story again and again, there is still a rich opportunity each year for us to be renewed in that new life that we celebrate. Within each of our own lives, and certainly throughout our world, we need to open ourselves to the presence of God interwoven into our lives. May the mystery of God among us continue to transform our hearts and bring us life.

Thank you for being with us at Holy Cross for your Christmas celebration. We are a blessed community in so many ways. We have many generous and caring people who enable us to carry on the work of ministry. We have many who truly find this a place where they feel welcomed and are spiritually fed.

If Holy Cross is not a regular part of your life, please consider joining us. Your life may be blessed by sharing part of your week with us, and we will be blessed in having you be part of our gatherings.

Best wishes for a Joyful Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered Sunday, January 1st, after the 9:30 Mass.

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 2022 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



Weekly Calendar

Saturday, December 24th	4PM,6PM,10PM
• CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES <i>(There is no 5PM Mass today.)</i>	Worship Area
Sunday, December 25th	8AM,9:30AM,11:30AM
• CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES	Worship Area
Monday, December 26th	9 AM
• MORNING MASS <i>(The Parish Office is closed today.)</i>	Worship Area
Tuesday, December 27th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
Sunday, January 1st	After 9:30 Mass
• ANOINTING OF THE SICK	Worship Area

The Bread and Wine for the week December 25 - 31 have been donated in loving memory of Anthony DeVito Jr. by his family.



Scripture Readings for January 1st, 2023



- + Numbers 6:22-27
- + Galatians 4:4-7
- + Luke 2:16-21

Celebrants for Upcoming Masses



December 31st/January 1st

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

Thank You! - We would like to thank Michele Dry Cleaners located at 65 Smithtown Boulevard in Smithtown, NY, for their generosity in maintaining the linens and vestments used at Mass. They have donated this service to Holy Cross for many years!

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, December 26th.

Next Weekend's Masses—The Solemnity of Mary

Saturday, December 31, at 5 PM and Sunday, January 1, at 8 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

LITURGY BYTES

Merry Christmas

If you are new to the parish, welcome. We hope you will find a home here and become an active member. We are so happy you have chosen to celebrate the birth of Our Lord with our parish family. The needs and sufferings of strangers, families, and humanity as a whole, should be in our hearts and minds as we pray with the story of Christ's birth—a journey that the Holy Family embraced as refugees who needed basic food, shelter, and security.



Sometimes that concept mentioned above about the Holy Family is overlooked. We need that wake-up nudge to see Christ's face in all, especially in the lost, forgotten and suffering. Each one of us can make a difference and together, as the Body of Christ, truly great things will happen!

*Today is born our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord!
In your great love, O God,
You have surrounded us
with the radiance of the birth of your Son, Jesus.
Grant that we may live in his light
and always let our good deeds shine forth for all to see.
Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

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

From the Religious Education Department:

Check out our children and catechists in action!



← Megan Boccard's Level 2 class
learning about our Advent Season

Kathleen Nasta's Level 4 class →
making Christmas cards for local
nursing homes



*Thank you to all our catechists for their continued dedication
in teaching our children about their faith.*

PARISH OUTREACH

Christmas Angel Program

Once again, we were blessed with a tremendous response to our Christmas Angel Program. The overwhelming amount of gift cards provided for our families, in addition to the agencies we collect for, and all the food donations have been remarkable. The gift cards collected and distributed to our Outreach families allowed them to make choices on how and on what to spend it. This allows them to feel empowered with dignity as they are able to provide for their families.



This year we helped 48 families consisting of 102 adults and 62 children for a total of 164 individuals. With your generous donations we were able to provide each person with approximately \$25 and an additional \$25 per child for their toy requests. Also, each household received a supermarket card to help with their holiday meal. This year we collected and distributed over \$5,600 in store cards and about \$2,000 in supermarket cards. This was all possible due to your generosity to our Christmas Angel Program.

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

- Olsen's - Over 550 individual packets of tissues collected, 37 hairbrushes, 37 spray deodorant cans
- Pronto - 152 toys collected
- Mercy Haven - 23 gift cards worth \$25 each to Target
- Talbot House - 14 men's sweatshirts, 3 men's t-shirts, 15 unisex hoodies, 15 women's sweatshirts, 6 women's t-shirts, 26 unisex sweatpants, over 100 pairs of socks

Thank you to all who donated money, gift cards, gifts for the agencies we support, and all the special donations. Your generosity has allowed us to continue serving those in need in our community and bring much needed support and hope. On behalf of all those we serve, THANK YOU! You truly are ANGELS! Christ is born again every time we choose to give to another, walk with another, and empower another.

A special THANK YOU to all the many volunteers who made this all possible: angel cutters, shoppers, pantry stockers, sorting elves, gift deliverers and card writers. This would not be possible without your help and support.

With a grateful heart, I wish you and your families a very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Peace,
Kelley



Christmas Flowers in Honor/Memory of...



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

TARA & LANCE LAPORTA
MULA FAMILY
DIROSA FAMILY
PETER GALLO
MARY GALLO
VINCENT GALLO
NANCY SIBLANO
VINCENT PELLICCIO
ANNA & SABINO CERVONE
VINCENT PELLICCIO
ROSE & DOMINICK CARDONE
ANGELINA & JOE FRANGOSIE
TONY FRANGIOSE
ROSE GICOLA
THERESA WEISS
THOMAS WHITE
ANTONIO VILLANO
FRANK VILLANO
FRED & DOLORES SCHANTZ
HENRY & LILLIAN BETZ
DOROTHY & HAROLD KOHLER
HAROLD KOHLER JR.
FLOHR FAMILY
KOHLER FAMILY
ANGELO TRABACCHI
FRANK RIZZI
THERESA TRABACCHI
ANNE RUDNICKI
EDWARD RUDNICKI
SARAH MOORE
LEON RUDNICKI
FRANK HASSETT
LAURA IZZO
ALFRED IZZO
PAT DELPRETE
LOU ROMEO
ANN ROMEO
MARIE PUPPA
FRANK PUPPA
ANTHONY JOHNSON JR.
MARGARET LEPTICH
PETER LEPTICH
SUSAN EHR
BIAGIO CHIRAFISI
JOSEPHINE & FRANK MORACO
MARYANN SAGGIO
FRANK SAGGIO
STEPHEN THOMPSON
SADIE & ALFRED RAIBALDI
ANN & DOMINICK TRIFILETTI
FANNY & ANTHONY MAURO
CLARENCE & BESSIE KENYON
BESSIE & SALVATORE TRIFILETTI
CAROL NOTO
ROSE GURINO
ANTHONY GURINO
BRENDAN COFFEY
MICHAEL F. BRESCIA
RICHARD BORRILLO
SERAFINA EUSEPI
LILLIE MILITO
PETER MARSALA
JANET MARSALA
M/M AMERIGO ARNONI
M/M NUZZIO AMENDOLIA
VICTORIA CASDIA
ANGIE BONGAILAS
JOSEPH FORNEIRO
ANTHONY FORNEIRO
ROSE NACLERIO
ERNEST NACLERIO

JOSEPH CIRONE
MARY CIRONE
DAN PERRONE
LUCY PERRONE
TERRI & DAVID LAMPACH
EDWARD LAMPACH & FAMILY
ROSEMARIE & PETER GRAUS
JANET KERRIGAN & FAMILY
SOTTUNG FAMILY
DUMINUCO FAMILY
PAUL CAMPANELLI
LANG FAMILY
CAMPANELLI FAMILY
ANNA SCHWINN
FATHER GERARD SMITH
THERESA RYAN
DENNIS KELLY
MARGARET & JOHN DORNEY
MAUREEN & JOHN KELLY
COLIN DORNEY
CARMELA TERRANOVA
MICHAEL TERRANOVA
ERIC SCHWARZ
IDA TERRANOVA
ED HAU
MARY & GENE CALHOUN
ED & ANN HAU
PAT FINNEGAN
M/M W. KUCZWAJ
M/M E. MAKOWSKI
LYNDA LAURO
SUSAN MILLER
MY MOTHER
FRANK RANIERI
MILLIE NEITLICH
WALTER MUELLER
ANTHONY DIMICHELE
ANTOINETTE POLITO
CARMINE POLITO
DIMICHELE FAMILY
POLITO FAMILY
SAM & VIRGINIA CHASINOV
REV. ED ZOGBY
JOE & LUCY LESCINSKI
ROSARIO ABATE
GREGORY WIRTH
ESTELLE STERNBERG
JOHN STERNBERG
ELIZABETH SHEA
CECIL & ANN WIRTH
CATHERINE & CHARLES MORENO
MARY & JOHN O'CONNOR
MICHAEL O'CONNOR
SCHNEIDER FAMILY
ARMAND MACGILLIVRAY
JAMES P. McALLISTER
FRANK R.
FARA R.
WALTER B.
MARY B.
THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE
HEDWIG LEWANDOWSKI
FRANCIS LEWANDOWSKI
ANNA BELL
DAVID BELL
TOM WALSH
JEAN STANTON
RONALD DANDREA
GLORIA DANDREA

GEORGE GROBLUSKI
GAETANA GROBLUSKI
MICHAEL & CARMELA TERRANOVA
THOMAS BROPHY
JOSEPH TERRANOVA
VINCENT FERRARO FAMILY
HOLT FAMILY
FERRARO/REICH FAMILY
GLORIA POSIMATO
JOSEPHINE & NICHOLAS POSIMATO
ANTHONY POSIMATO
JEAN POSIMATO
JOHN POSIMATO
JOHN PERSICH
GRACE PERSICH
GERALD MULDERIG SR.
ELIZABETH MULDERIG
WES KAMINSKY
SISTER AQUINATA McGRATH
ELEANOR & AL COURTNEY
MARTIN ESPOSITO
JAMES LECHNER
HAROLD & MARION BUDREO
PATRICIA & TOM CLARKE
PASQUALE & ANNA FRICIONE
SUE ELLEN SULLIVAN
ROBERT DETWEILER
MELBA LOTIERZO
EDWARD & AGNES DETWEILER
MARYANNE DETWEILER
ANNE CALIA
GERALDINE CAMMARATA
JOSEPH SVERCEL
NICHOLAS SVERCEL
RITA MONJELLO
JOHN MONJELLO
NATALIE DIFAZIO
SEBASTIAN DIFAZIO
VINCENZA CASTRONOVO
SALVATORE CASTRONOVO
MARIE KOERICK
THEODORE J. KOERICK
GLORIA POSIMATO
ROSE GATTO
JOE & GLORIA GATTO
JOSEPH & JOSEPHINE D'ESPOSITO
FRANK & ROSE MARINO
LINDA MARINO
HERBERT & MARIA EANNAcone
JOHN EANNAcone
NICHOLAS ARMENTI
CARMELA GUGLIELMO
ELIZABETH SHEA
COOPER FAMILY
KUBICSKO FAMILY
HENRY LICHTENBERGER
EILEEN LICHTENBERGER
MORTON FASS
DOLORES FASS
CELESTE E. BABI
JOSEPH M. BABI
JOHN SCHULTZ
CATHERINE BERDON
REGINA HICKEY
ROBERT GRONENTHAL
GEORGE HOLST
BEATRICE HOLST
DAVID MCKINLEY
JOHN COOK
J.S. KULESZA
KAZIMIERZ KULESZA

CZESLAWA WOLCZAK
 HALINA GROSFELD
 RAYMOND W. CONWAY
 DOROTHY A. CONWAY
 RAYMOND M. CONWAY
 GRACE JOHNSON
 GRACE MAZZEO
 JOHN MAZZEO
 TOM GIUFFRIDA
 REGINA GIUFFRIDA
 ALLIE BIANCHI
 MARY & AL BRILLAUD
 STANLEY & STEPHANIE ADAMKIEWICZ
 BARBARA & LARRY SHIN
 STAS ADAMKIEWICZ
 MARTY SHIN
 LARRY SHIN
 GAETANO CAVALLI
 GIOVANNA CAVALLI
 SAVAGE FAMILY
 ANDERSON FAMILY
 PELECK FAMILY
 LIPNICKI FAMILY
 O'HANLON FAMILY
 CANNIZZARO FAMILY
 MARY & JIM SCHULTZ
 GLADYS & HENRY COLBAN
 LEA & HAROLD BURNS
 KATHY BURNS
 THERESA MEDARO
 ANTHONY MEDARO
 PETER MEDARO
 FRANCES TUMMINIA
 EDWARD CONATY
 ALICE CANNUSCIO
 ALBERT CANNUSCIO
 JOHN CONATY
 JAMES EVANS
 MARYLYN EVANS
 GUY PLOURDE
 RUTH MARIE ANDERSON
 FLORENCE HEANEY
 JOSEPH & ROSE MULLER
 RICHARD MULLER
 NICHOLAS DAGGER
 GERALDINE CONTI
 JIM & ELAINE DAGGER
 DOROTHY VIKARA
 KATHRYNANNE PINKERTON
 SEBASTIAN BARTOLOTTA
 JOSEPH PARZIALE
 SOKOL FAMILY
 FRAZIER FAMILY
 D'AGOSTINO FAMILY
 ANNE & THOMAS COYNE
 SCAPARRO FAMILY
 BORRUSO FAMILY
 M/M NICHOLAS LAMB
 M/M WILLIAM MCQUADE
 ROBERTA LAMB
 RICHARD LAMB
 WILLIAM RYDER
 HONEY & WALTER V. KUCZWAJ
 COACH RICHARD HARRINGTON
 LORRAINE BRODERICK HARRINGTON
 BARBARA MARTIN
 RICHARD P. CANALINI
 NICHOLAS & ADA CANALINI
 ANTHONY & THERESA CARACCILO
 HENRY LUTZ
 PETER BECKER
 CLIFFORD LUTZ
 MILDRED LUTZ
 LILLIAN BECKER
 LOGAN LUTZ
 FILIBERTO FAMILY

GRISANZIO FAMILY
 GEORGE F. RAPLEE
 GLENN RAPLEE
 DOMINICK & MARY VERDI
 SALVATORE & JOSEPHINE ROSSELLI
 ANN & ALFRED ZIMMERMANN
 PAPPALARDO FAMILY
 MATULA FAMILY
 ANTHONET GRIVAZ
 BRONISLAW MARCHEWKA
 EDMUND KARWOWSKI
 JEAN & PASQUALE BASILE
 PAUL R. KRUK
 JAMES PICKEL
 DAMIEN PICKEL
 MARY CONLIN
 PICKEL FAMILY
 CONLIN FAMILY
 SICIGNANO FAMILY
 PETRIZZO FAMILY
 GRANDPARENTS OF FRANCISCO & ROSA MARTINS
 GIOVANNI & FRANCES GRASS
 VINCENT & MILDRED SERRANTONIO
 MICHAEL SIMONETTI
 ROBERT RICCARDI
 THERESA CAROFANO
 ROCCO CAROFANO
 ANTONIA MINERVA
 VITO MINERVA
 LUIS SIMOES
 MARIA SIMOES
 ROSA DIAS
 FRANCISCO DIAS
 JOSEPH F. MARCUCCI
 MARCUCCI FAMILY
 PENZAVECCHIA FAMILY
 JAMES & JOSEPH PENZAVECCHIA
 MARY & ANTHONY ALTILIO
 TRAINA FAMILY
 MACARI FAMILY
 POLIK FAMILY
 FELDMAN FAMILY
 HEDWIG & FRANK AKALSKI
 STANLEY OSINA
 ELEANOR & FRED KERNER
 ANN BRENNAN
 JIM BRENNAN
 ARLINE BLANKE
 ANTHONY DeVITO JR.
 DOMINICK TESTA
 ANNA TESTA
 ANTHONY DeVITO SR.
 LUCILLE DeVITO
 ANTHONY TESTA
 CHRISTOPHER SCHMID
 VITO & FLORENCE CAMPANALE
 THOMAS F. DUNN
 SARAH LAMARTINA
 JOSEPH LAMARTINA
 DUNN FAMILY
 JOE BRINDISI
 JOHN HUMPHRIES
 MARY HUMPHRIES
 RITA OSIPOWICH
 WALTER & HELEN O'HARA
 PHILIP CLOSI
 NANCY & ALFRED JONES
 CHARLES & IRENE SIMS
 LAWRENCE & DOROTHY ZELTMANN
 MARCELLA SIMS
 WILLIAM FLAHERTY
 JOHN FRANCIS NORMAN
 ELIZABETH NORMAN

JOHN PELAN
 WHITE FAMILY
 MENDOLIA FAMILY
 VICKIE DEGRUCCIO
 VIC NELSON
 LCPL JACOB LAMM
 BRUNO FAMILY
 SCHREIBER FAMILY
 MOTHER, FATHER, SISTER, BROTHER, SON
 JANIS CHIECA
 BRUNO SANTINA
 RICHARD SANTINA
 GLENN SIMPSON
 MURPHY FAMILY
 GARCIA FAMILY
 JOHN E. COOK
 LAWRENCE CANZONA
 CLIFFORD CANZONA
 SISTER MAUREEN COOK
 PATRICIA BECKER
 TOMAS MATTA
 JOHN FONDA
 CARMELA FONDA
 JOHN FONDA JR.
 JOAN DiCICCO
 LAWRENCE TSCHUMI
 ANNA TSCHUMI
 LUCIA TRAINO VITALE
 KATHY RIVERS
 VICTOR PEREIRA
 MARTHA VETTER
 DOROTHY RIVERS
 ROSALIE PUMA
 ZALESKI SIBLINGS
 MICHAEL VERDI
 M/M LEONARD SESSA
 M/M ROBERT S. BECK
 CAROLYN BECCARELLI
 CAMILLO BECCARELLI
 JERRY PADRONE
 SANDRA SAFIANOW
 ROSE & TOM PETITO
 LENA & DOM FANUELE
 KAREN ANN PETITO
 SERVICE MEN & WOMEN
 WILLIAM G. MCQUADE JR.
 WILLIAM G. MCQUADE SR.
 EVELYN LAURA MCQUADE
 ANTHONY LICAUSI
 WILLIAM SCHNURR
 THERESA SCHNURR
 STEPHEN BURSKEY
 ANNA BURSKEY
 RUSSELL ZINGALE
 TOM McDEVITT
 CATHERINE & MICHAEL O'GRADY
 JEAN & RALPH INGHILTERRA
 VITO ORLANDO
 ANDREW ORLANDO
 CLARA ORLANDO
 MIKE DOWD
 FRANK PERRINO
 ALEC ROSS
 PERRINO FAMILY
 ITALIANO FAMILY
 CHRISTOPHER COTTER
 SARA & JAMES CONNOR
 DAVID LAUGHLIN
 WARREN COTTER
 PATRICIA & FRANK MESSINA
 JOHN & DOMENICK ABBATE
 ERIC SCHWARZ
 THOMAS BROPHY
 MOM & DAD TERRANOVA
 MAMA & PAPA SCHWARZ



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2022

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

Merry Christmas to you and your families!

In union with our Holy Father Pope Francis, and in a non-judgmental spirit of mercy, humility and charity, I invite everyone who will be present at our Christmas Masses, or watching our Christmas Masses via the Catholic Faith Network or CBS, or not present at all: If your life has been far from the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist, I invite you with Pope Francis to return.

I invite you to experience the power and liberation of Christ's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance and to cross the bridge into the full practice of your Catholic Faith through a radical fidelity to the Sunday Mass and an ever-deepening love for the Holy Eucharist.

Perhaps you are not a Catholic and yet have some mysterious attraction to the Catholic Mass and the Eucharist.

You are not alone! Many saints – I think of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the pioneering American Catholic educator and convert – had the same experience and were drawn to enter the Church through their intuitive experience of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist in our parish churches! Be open to the Eucharistic movement of the Holy Spirit in your life!

Our celebration of Christmas 2022 occurs this year as every Catholic diocese, every Catholic parish, every Catholic hospital, university, and institution in the United States is engaged in an evangelizing ***Eucharistic Revival***.

What do we mean by the phrase “Eucharistic Revival” and why is it so important for our celebration of Christmas?

What does a love for the Eucharist and an openness to being a 21st Century Eucharistic missionary have to do with our celebration of Christmas 2022?

Pope Francis points out the relationship between the Birth of Christ and the Holy Eucharist and the Mass. The very word Bethlehem means “house of Bread.”

Pope Francis states: “Bethlehem is the turning point that alters the course of history. There God, in the *house of bread*, is born in a *manger*. It is as if he wanted to say: ‘Here I am, as your food.’ He does not take, but gives us to eat; he does not give us a mere thing, but his very self. In Bethlehem, we discover that God does not take life, but gives it. To us, who from birth are used to taking and eating, Jesus begins to say: ‘Take and eat. This is my body.’ (Matthew 26:26) The tiny body of the Child of Bethlehem speaks to us of a new way to live our lives: not by devouring and hoarding, but by sharing and giving. God makes himself small so that he can be our food. By feeding on him, the bread of life,

we can be *reborn in love*, and break the spiral of grasping and greed. From the ‘house of bread,’ Jesus brings us back home, so that we can become God’s family, brothers and sisters to our neighbors. Standing before the manger, we understand that the food of life is not material riches but love, not gluttony but charity, not ostentation but simplicity. The Lord knows that we need to be fed daily. That is why he offered himself to us every day of his life: from the manger in Bethlehem to the Upper Room in Jerusalem. Today too, on the altar, he becomes bread broken for us; he knocks at our door, to enter and eat with us (cf. Revelation 3:20). At Christmas, we on earth receive Jesus, the bread from heaven. It is a bread that never grows stale, but enables us even now to have a foretaste of eternal life.”¹

Eucharistic Revival, in the words of Pope St. John Paul II, is a rediscovery of “Eucharistic Amazement” and Eucharistic Devotion.

Eucharistic Revival means that we understand deeply that every Mass has a cosmic significance, and every Mass is celebrated on the Altar of the world – the Altar of Ukraine and every war torn and injustice-ridden area of our world.

Eucharistic Revival is an effective catechesis of the theology and spirituality of the Catholic Mass that moves the hearts, minds, souls and imaginations of the People of God.

Eucharistic Revival in our Catholic schools means the cultivation of a radical fidelity to the Sunday Catholic Mass on the part of our teachers, our staff and our families.

Eucharistic Revival is a rekindling of Pope Benedict XVI’s insight that every period of Church reform and effective Catholic evangelization and mission throughout history can be traced to a rediscovery of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ, Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.²

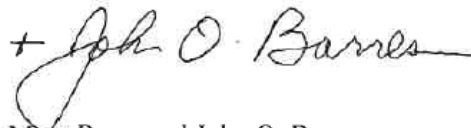
As we celebrate the birth of Christ and his rebirth in our hearts and families at Christmas, we pray for a renewal of our faith in Christ’s Eucharistic presence.

We pray that each of us could be Divine Mercy instruments of bringing many, many people back to a full fidelity to the Eucharist and the Catholic Mass.

As we celebrate Christmas, we are being called to be intentional, compassionate, understanding and listening Eucharistic missionaries.

Merry Christmas to you and your families! May the love of the Christ child and the love of the Holy Family light your remaining steps on earth and light your path to Heaven and Eternal Life.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

¹ Pope Francis Homily for Midnight Mass, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2018.

² See Pope Benedict XVI’s 2017 Apostolic Exhortation *Sacramentum Caritatis* 6: “Every great reform has in some way been linked to the rediscovery of belief in the Lord’s eucharistic presence among his people.”

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 _____
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