

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.*



Wait for the
revelation of
our Lord
Jesus Christ.

Come and pray with us!

First Sunday of Advent - December 3, 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 3, 9AM Masses

Mon. Gloria Morello
Tue. Petra Robinson (living)
Wed. Irma Gonzales de Guzman
Thu. Marge Donofrio (living)



Thursday, Dec. 7, Immaculate Conception Vigil

7:00 PM Maureen Murray (living)

Friday, Dec. 8, Immaculate Conception Mass

9:00 AM Jack Hough

Saturday, December 9, 5PM Mass

Joseph Svercel, Eric Schwarz, Theresa Schwarz,
James Cerone, Michael Allegra, Olivia Susan Shields

Sunday, December 10, Second Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Biagio Chirafisi, James Bayer, Tammy
Sayres, Richard Schwinn, Debra DiBella
11:30 AM Anthony DeVito Jr.

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.

SHIVER ME TIMBERS

by Father Michael

Last Sunday evening was more than just a blustery night, the winds were quite strong. I was sitting in my living room falling asleep just after 10:00 when I was awoken to a sickening crash. It sounded like someone dropped a steel shipping container from a great height. I put on my coat and ran out the door. My plan was to go down to the road thinking I would see a tractor trailer that had fallen prey to some calamity. However, at the top of my driveway I was stopped in my tracks. A panel of the stockade fence was missing; I thought it simply had blown down. But much to my dismay, it was pushed over by a large tree that had been at the side of my driveway.

The tree fell towards my neighbor on Rolling Hills Drive, and it was not a gentle landing. Among its list of destructive blows, it punched several holes in the deck, broke a window, and flattened a patio table. Both the bewildered homeowners and I stood in disbelief looking at a once beautiful backyard deck that now looked like a crash sight. The one enormous blessing that everyone quickly realized was that no one was hurt. There is a young man who lives there who regularly gathers there with his friends. Had it been occupied, we would be dealing with a tragedy.

The first task on Monday was to notify the Diocese and our insurance agent. Both were quite helpful, and the process to clean up and repair the damages began. We were able to get the fallen tree removed by Tuesday. It may take some time to return everything to its original state, but again we are so very grateful that it was just stuff that got broken and nobody got hurt. We will need to be addressing others trees along my driveway that are less than healthy and could pose a threat.

This weekend begins the season of Advent. This year is particularly crazy as Christmas falls on a Monday. That means the entirety of the fourth week of Advent is limited to Saturday evening and Sunday morning. Admittedly, Advent seems to be out of sync with the rest of our society that has been advertising and selling for Christmas since weeks before Thanksgiving. As counter-cultural as it seems, there really is wisdom in the invitation to live in expectation and waiting. The clearest example of the beauty of this experience is a family awaiting the birth of a child. Those months are filled with wonder and awe. Pregnancy should not be the only scenario of waiting that is holy. We tend to be an impatient people and want immediate gratification. Through our prayer and discipline we can make these weeks peaceful and hopeful. We all have lots of stuff to do, but let us not overlook the opportunity given us as we prepare once again to rejoice in the birth of our Savior.

Men's Prayer Group

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Weekly Calendar

- Saturday, December 2nd** 3:45-4:45 PM
 • HOLY HOUR Worship Area
 • BASKET RAFFLE SALES 5PM Atrium
 • WREATH/CENTERPIECE PICKUP Atrium
- Sunday, December 3rd** All Masses
 • BASKET RAFFLE SALES Atrium
 • WREATH/CENTERPIECE PICKUP Atrium
 • ANOINTING OF THE SICK 9:30AM Worship Area
- Monday, December 4th** 4 - 6 PM
 • SPECIAL NEEDS Atrium
 • KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 7PM Fr. Joe Room
- Tuesday, December 5th** 10 AM
 • IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room
- Wednesday, December 6th** 6 - 8 PM
 • VIRTUS TRAINING Fr. Joe Room
 • ADVENT PRAYER 7PM Chapel, Atrium
- Thursday, December 7th** 10 AM
 • SCRIPTURE STURY Fr. Joe Room
 • ADVENT PRAYER 1:30PM Chapel, Atrium
 • IMMAC. CONCEPT. VIGIL 7PM Worship Area
- Friday, December 8th** 9 AM
 • IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS Worship Area
 (The Parish Office is closed for the Holy Day.)
- Saturday, December 9th** 6 PM
 • YOUTH NIGHT-ACOUSTIC CAFÉ Atrium
- Sunday, December 10th** 1 PM
 • BAPTISMS Worship Area

Scripture Readings for December 10, 2023



- + Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
- + 2 Peter 3:8-14
- + Mark 1:1-8



Banns of Marriage

Third Time

Amber Pyne & James McCloskey

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, December 9th/10th



- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| 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 3th - 9th have been donated in loving memory of Agnes Sweeney by Theresa Kempf.



The Parish Office is closed on Friday, December 8th, for the **Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day.** Mass times are Thursday, December 7th, at 7 PM and Friday, December 8th, at 9 AM.

Christmas Basket Raffle



Come join the fun! Our Christmas Basket Raffle will be held after all the Masses on December 2nd and 3rd. Winners will be drawn at the end of the 11:30 Mass. You do not have to be present to win.

Our baskets feature Christmas themed baskets, assorted toys, games, and gift certificates to local businesses. Tickets are 3 for \$5 or 7 for \$10.

Thank you!

PARISH NEWS



Pray for Our Military

Sgt David Basler
 Cpl Brian S. Brophy Jr., USMC
 Cpl Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
 FC2 Lane Dyar
 AS Brandon Ferrara
 MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA
 WO Christopher Kaminsky
 Sgt Michael J. Knipper, USMC
 SSGT Ryan Mauldin
 PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
 Lt Ryan Montvydas
 Cpl 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 2023. Please let us know if their service is finished or their title has changed.

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



Holy Baptism

*Holy Cross
 Welcomes These
 Children Baptized in
 November*

**Layla Joy Cruz
 Olivia Grace Garced
 Austin William Lavelle
 Pierce Andrew Lawton
 Caden Ryan MaryEa
 Travis Ryan Nicotra
 Brayden Thomas Pica
 Sloane Anne Reidy
 Jayce Jackens Rueda**



We remember and pray for the following Holy Cross parishioners who passed away recently:

*Debra DiBella
 Zenon Warłński
 Richard Zak*

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

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** will be offered after the 9:30 AM Mass this Sunday.

An Invitation to Advent Prayer

In the busyness of this Advent season, why not take some time away with God? Join us for a special prayer experience incorporating Dallas Jenkins' film,

The Shepherd

Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 – 8:00 PM **or**
 Thursday, December 7, 1:30 – 2:30 PM.

All parishioners are invited.



Please fill in the tear-off below and return to the Parish Office by December 4th.

I will attend **Advent Prayer** on ___ Wed., Dec. 6, at 7 PM ___ Thurs., Dec. 7, at 1:30PM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

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 (5th 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



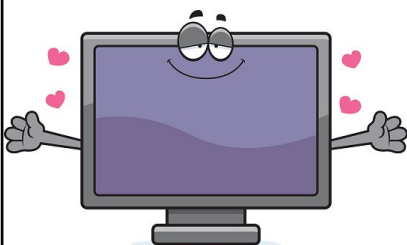
We will be rehearsing for the **Christmas Eve 10 PM Mass.**

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

We Have a New Year

This weekend we begin a new year in the Church's calendar with the season of anticipation and waiting..... It's Advent once again! Our color changes to purple, we have a special wreath displayed in the Sanctuary with three purple and one pink candle marking off the weeks before Christmas. This year, this special season is a bit shorter because the 4th Sunday of Advent is the same day as Christmas Eve!



Many people ask about the origins of the Advent wreath. It began as a German custom back in the 1800s. It came to our country in the 1920s and '30s. As time went on, many households duplicated their own version of the Advent wreath for their families. A weekly lighting of the candle, a short prayer, and a reminder of what Advent was all about—waiting for the coming of Jesus.

Even though the color purple is used on priests' vestments and on banners, it is not meant to be a penitential season like that of Lent. It is directed more toward being patient and anticipating Christmas with Jesus' birth, who is the Light of the World! It is to redirect us from the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping to a sense of peace. The more candles we light, the more light we have reminding us that Christmas is near. A wonderful thought is to embrace how we can individually bring that light here to all we meet. How will we reflect His light this year?

Have a prayerful, beaming & peaceful week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*

Special Collection

The **Religious Retirement Collection** will take place in all parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre on the weekend of December 9th and 10th. Our continued goal is to provide financial assistance for the challenges that our religious face because of the rising cost of healthcare. This collection helps to fund daily essentials like prescription medications and nursing care. Please show our thanks for the service our elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests have given us by contributing to this collection. Thank you!

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.

PARISH OUTREACH

Christmas Angels

A VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER

TODAY, DECEMBER 3RD, IS THE LAST DAY TO RETURN YOUR ANGEL GIFT CARDS OR GIFTS. Please be sure all Angel items are here by the end of the 11:30am Mass. This afternoon, our Outreach committee will be sorting and allocating the gift cards for our families so that they have time to shop. The agencies will also be picking up their gift items this week.

We hope you will continue to keep our struggling neighbors in your prayers. Thank you for remembering them during this season of joy, hope and peace.



Dress a Girl Around the World 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. Wishing you all a peaceful Advent season and a joyous Christmas!

Outreach Food Pantry

Next Saturday and Sunday, **December 9th/10th**, will be our monthly Food Drive for our Parish Outreach Pantry. The following items would be most helpful:

- Paper Towels
- Shampoo
- Pasta Sauce in jars
- Toilet Paper
- Toothpaste

Please don't forget to check expiration dates! It will greatly assist the volunteers who stack the pantry with your donated goods.
Thank you!





Holy Cross Youth Group
serving grades 7-12

presents

Acoustic Cafe

JOIN
US!

BRING
A
FRIEND!

A Night of Entertainment

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH | 6 PM - 8 PM

7th - 12th graders

JOIN US FOR A FUN NIGHT
SHOWCASING TEEN TALENT!

We will be serving appetizers and desserts
and we have some fun games planned too!

Don't Miss It!

WE KINDLY ASK THAT YOU PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM
TO BE DONATED TO THE HOLY CROSS FOOD PANTRY

IN THE HC ATRIUM, AFTER 5 PM MASS

FOR YOUTH

A big THANK YOU to everyone who made our Youth Group Thanksgiving Feast a success! We had an amazing time playing kickball, sharing in prayer, and eating delicious food. We could not do this without the generosity of the parish and the hard work of our Youth Group team...



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, December 6th 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.

THANKSGIVING MASS

On Thanksgiving morning, we celebrated a beautiful Mass at 9:00. Here are some pictures from that day.



*Grateful,
Thankful
& Blessed*



CATHOLIC YOUNG ADULTS



Catholic Young Adults

Christmas Party!

*Join us for a discussion on Advent,
fellowship, food, and Christmas music!*

Thursday, December 14th

7:30 pm



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
199 SMITHTOWN BLVD
NESCONSET, NEW YORK



Ages 21-35

Drinks available for purchase

Kindly Reply by December 13th

AmicisCatholicFellowship@gmail.com



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 _____
 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
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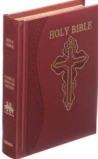
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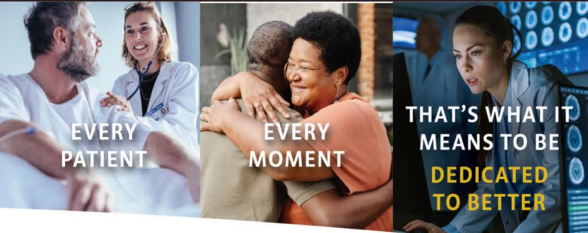
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