

The Parish of the Holy Cross

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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!

1st Sunday of Lent - February 18, 2024

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
Alejandro Astegiano	Jo Barry
Kathy Barry	Liam Bentley
Barbara Bombace	Cole Brennan
Ann Callari	Judy Carlson
Jason DeLuca	Manuela Diaz
Ann Egan	Vincent Esposito
Ralph Farino	Yolanda Fattarusso
Sienna Fricke	Linda Heinrichs
Debbie Jablinowski	Kristen Kennedy
Roberta Lamb	Dora Libretti
Dotty Licausi	Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch	Viola Malek
Jeanne Marie Malley	Olivia Melia
Loretto Narducci	Carina Ranieri
Liam Richards	Elaine Ruane
Casey Schultz	Kathy Schwinn
Dolores Serri	Barbara Sherry
Celeste Sichenze	Bill Tanner
Grace Van Epps	Peter Warns

Upcoming Mass Intentions



Week of Sunday, February 18, 9AM Masses

Mon. Kiona Tempelman (living)
Tue. Rinaldi Family
Wed. Genevieve McCarthy (living)
Thu. Helen Dalamango

Saturday, February 24, 5PM Mass

Paul DiGregorio, Joey Zanfardino

Sunday, February 25, Second Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Lillian Buckhout
9:30 AM People of the Parish
11:30 AM Guillerma & Pedro Banaguas, Anthony Gallo, Jonathan McGrellis, Joelito Seyan, Crocefissa Starace

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.

FIGHT MY BATTLES/SURROUNDED #1

by Father Michael

This first Sunday of Lent begins with the same story from scripture that we hear every year, Jesus facing his temptations. Too often we can overlook the humanity of Jesus. We believe he was God's son, and we believe in his divinity. But he also was fully human and shared in the same experiences we do, except for sin.

It is fascinating to note the distinctions that are made in telling this story between Matthew, Mark and Luke. Both Matthew and Luke give details as to what tempted Jesus. They articulate three temptations for Jesus. He was tempted to use his power for his own benefit. He was tempted to place his trust in someone other than his Father. And he was tempted to test his Father. Mark's version of this story is much simpler; the entire passage is three verses. All we hear was that he was "tempted by Satan." It leaves much more to our imagination. Jesus was in the desert for forty days. In the midst of great silence the depth of the soul can be opened, both in positive and negative ways. If you were Jesus, what do you think your temptations would be? We have to make connections to this difficult, but necessary time in Jesus' life with our own struggles. If Jesus were here at Holy Cross for this Lent, we would be asking him what the battles are of his life that he needs to fight.

This first step of Lent can be difficult for us as well. We need to look with honesty at the people and issues that keep us from living out God's commandment of love. Understanding the truth of our lives, both the light and the shadow, is an essential starting point. We need to name where we need God's healing, forgiveness and transformation the most. What are the battles that we need to fight?

We are asking you to come up with a specific answer to that question. And we encourage you to bring that battle to this community. If you remember, when we were celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we invited you to write the names of your loved ones on a large white banner. That banner was then incorporated into our liturgy for several weekends. We are once again using that same cloth. This time we ask you to write the battle that you need to fight. It will be anonymous; you are not signing your name. We ask you to simply write on the cloth the battle that lies in your heart. Issues like resentment, anger, selfishness, addiction, are a few examples. The cloth will be in the atrium. It will be available for you to write on only this weekend and next. The cloth will then be utilized in our prayer in the following weeks of Lent and Easter. Don't miss out on the opportunity to unite with fellow parishioners in the journey of Lent.

LITURGY BYTES

Helps for Lent



As Lent has begun, we now look to use this time to grow in our Faith, deepen our prayer life, make a concerted effort to reach out to those who are in need. How will you accomplish this? If you are able, daily Mass is always a good place to start. Or perhaps you prefer to “give something up” for the 40 days or as some people I know do, keep off of social media. Each one of us approaches Lent differently. Below are some ideas, some opportunities that are available to us that you might find interesting.

Web Sites:

Dynamic Catholic: <https://www.dynamiccatholic.com>

Creighton University: <https://onlineministries.creighton.edu>

My Daily Visitor: <https://www.mydailyvisitor.com/>

Join Fr. Patrick Mary Briscoe, OP, as we pray and reflect with free daily video reflections this Lent.

Loyola Press: <https://www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer/>

USCCB – United States Catholic Conference of Bishops website -
<https://www.usccb.org> – daily Mass readings

Apps: <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Hallow Free download (<https://hallow.com>) with access to a bunch of exquisite content. Subscription necessary to open access to full content—monthly \$8.99.

Along with our Lenten calendar that the parish will have available for you, the above information will hopefully be helpful for a beautiful Lenten experience!

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

An Evening for Men

Wednesday, March 6 @ 7:00PM

Fr. Michael will lead this evening which invites us to name the brokenness and battles of our lives. Witness talks will be offered by fellow parishioners. We will acknowledge and celebrate that the great battles of our lives, in fact, bring us into greater union with our Savior.



An Evening for Women

Wednesday, March 13 @ 7:00PM

Jude Pickel and Michele Hall will lead this evening which looks at the story of the Woman at the Well. Through her journey we will connect with the struggles and battles of our own lives, which can truly be transformed by the love and acceptance of our Lord.

An Evening for All

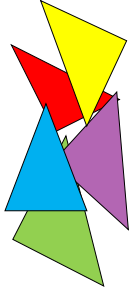
Wednesday, March 20 @ 7:00PM

Parishioner Cristian Murphy will lead this evening which celebrates the gift and wonder of MERCY and how it can bring us to peace and new life. This will be an evening of visual images and stories that unite us in the Paschal Mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

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, February 22, from 1-3 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 2-3 yards of cotton fabric for the body of the dress and **1-3 yards of solid colors for the pockets.** 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!

Homebound Ministry

Homebound Ministers—We invite you to join this vital ministry!

Can you see yourself ministering to those who are homebound? Can you see yourself sharing a half an hour a week visiting, praying, and delivering the Eucharist to those who are, at times, forgotten? Our Homebound Ministry is growing, and we need your help! A small-time commitment and a loving heart are all that are needed. We invite you to be part of this vital Parish ministry that supports and ministers to those who are unable to join us at Sunday Mass. We are asking for your help in serving those we are called to serve. The impact you will make on a person’s life is far beyond the time given. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Outreach Office at 631-265-2200 ext. 113 for more information and any questions you may have. Thank you!

Are you or someone you know in the parish, homebound or anticipating an operation or treatment of cancer? We are eager to know, in a more personal way, our parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized. Often, we do not hear of a person’s illness or inability to join us for Sunday Mass. We need your assistance and invite you to help us see those in need and make the connection to our loved parishioners. Please call 631-265-2200 ext. 113 or stop by Parish Outreach to let us know of these parishioners who are special to us.



MINISTRY TO THE
Homebound

PARISH OUTREACH

Homebound Ministers to the Sick - Thank you!

While I have been involved with various ministries at my parish, for the longest time I paid zero attention to homebound ministry to the sick and dying. That was until I needed them. My parents, who were very elderly, were in need of spiritual support. They would normally be regular church goers, every Sunday, but due to a decline in my dad's health they depended on a lay person to come and distribute Holy Communion, first in their home and later in their nursing care facility. It meant the world to them both.

My wife and I came to see how vital these volunteers are firsthand. We also saw how comforting the visits were. Because of this need and the shortage of ministers, my wife responded by volunteering for this ministry at our parish. I tag along with her as she goes every other Sunday to a local nursing home. My job is to light the candle and pray along. While doing this I am fighting a very strong aversion to nursing homes.

I have seen elderly hands shake in anticipation of receiving our Lord with such deep reverence and gratitude for the fact that Christ has finally come to visit them in their need. I saw one holy woman who had cancer, who for various reasons was not able to receive on previous visits, get to receive Jesus again in the Eucharist. No one was more grateful; she was all smiles. Later that week she passed away into the arms of the same Jesus.

Once while my wife was saying the prayers for one of the residents, there was a blind man asking for water in the next bed. "Can I have water please?" I saw the jug and a cup on the table next to him, so I poured him a cup and guided his hand to hold it. He drank it down and said, "more" as he held out the cup in my general direction. I was reminded of Mother Theresa, when asked why she picked up the maggot infested people from the dirty Calcutta streets and cradled them so close, she responded, "When I look into their eyes, I only see Jesus." And here was a man saying the words of Christ as he hung on the cross, "I thirst."

I'm not even the homebound minister. I'm just some guy that would rather not be there. I'm just the guy who lights the candle and prays along. Then Jesus in disguise had to break into my situation! What else could I do? I had to give him water, and let me tell you, it was more of a blessing for me than for him. On that day, I felt like I was more than just the guy tagging along with a wonderful, caring person. I have learned through this experience that the Spirit of service is real, Jesus' love is real and Jesus in the Eucharist is real.

It has been incredible to witness this ministry so close up and to see the spiritual power of the Real Presence in the lives of people who would otherwise be forgotten. If you are feeling a nudge, please inquire within your parish. We need more people in Homebound Ministry.

Thank You Homebound Ministers. I see you.

Gary Sullivan (adapted)

Catholic365.com

PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply...So Others May Simply Eat

Lent offers us a unique period of time to evaluate our life journey as a follower of Christ. We are encouraged to assess if this journey has led us to an improved understanding and deepening of our relationship with our Lord, with our neighbors and with our brothers and sisters of the world community.



For the last 33 years, we at Holy Cross have embraced our Lenten Project Eat Simply So Others May Simply Eat as a way to raise our consciousness to the significant needs of our struggling friends. We willingly sacrifice larger or better meals for simpler meals during Lent. Our joint effort to EAT MORE SIMPLY SO OTHERS MAY SIMPLY EAT unites us in a special way with one another and also with those who are struggling on Long Island.

We encourage you not only to participate in this program, but also to discuss it at the dinner table with your children and family members. Many of us are not consciously aware of the number of people that are struggling and hungry right here in our own area. During 2023, our Outreach pantry served an average of 115 people each month.

The Lenten envelopes marked, EAT SIMPLY...SO OTHERS MAY SIMPLY EAT, will be available throughout the weekends of Lent. We suggest that you place the envelope in a prominent place in your kitchen as a reminder of how you and your family will be uniting yourselves with our struggling neighbors and with the starving of the world. We encourage you to reflect, discuss and to decide how you will eat more basic meals during Lent. Perhaps you have a favorite simple recipe to share. We'd be happy to put it in the bulletin for fellow parishioners to try.

Each weekend or whenever you choose during Lent, you may place your envelope in the basket on the pillar by the altar or in the collection basket. The monies donated will be used to help those who come to Parish Outreach for assistance. We are continually grateful for the very generous response of our parishioners of Holy Cross in donating money, food, and supermarket gift cards, which enable us to meet their needs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 18th 11:30 Mass
 • CHILDREN'S LITURGY Fr. Joe Room

Monday, February 19th 9 AM
 • DAILY MASS Chapel
 (*The Parish Office is closed for Presidents' Day.*)

Tuesday, February 20th 10 AM
 • IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room
 • CATHOLIC HEALTH BUS 9AM-2PM Parking Lot
 • MOMS' GROUP 7PM Fr. Joe Room
 • KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 7PM Atrium

Thursday, February 22nd 10 AM
 • WOMEN'S BIBLE CIRCLE Fr. Joe Room
 • DRESS A GIRL 1-3PM Atrium

Scripture Readings for February 25, 2024



+ Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18
 + Romans 8:31-34
 + Mark 9:2-10

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, February 24th/25th



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

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, February 19th, for Presidents' Day. There is a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

*The Bread and Wine for the week February 17th-24th have been donated in loving memory of **Richard P. Canalini** by his family.*



Girl Scout Sunday

Tell your Scouting friends...All Are Welcome
March 10th, 2024 9:30 Mass

Scouts should arrive 15 minutes early
 Uniforms/Sashes for scouts & leaders
 Contact Kim Loh Bodor Akjlb23@optonline.net or 516-996-2297

*Please let us know how many scouts & leaders will be attending by **March 1st** so we have enough reserved seating for your group.*

CFN Telethon '24

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) will continue their immense Telethon tradition this year! This exciting event will commence on **Saturday, February 24th, from 2 PM and continue through Monday, February 26th, at 8:30 AM.** The entertainment will continue with many surprise guests along with the on-air family that you have come to know. Please join the excitement and consider pledging! The process is easy, you can pledge securely online by visiting www.CFNtv.org. CFN is available throughout the Tri-State Area on Optimum, channel 29/137; Verizon FiOS TV channel 296; Spectrum, channel 162/471. Additionally, you can tune in nationwide on the following streaming services—Amazon Fire TV, Samsung Smart TV, Roku, Android TV, and Apple TV.

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.



Parish of the Holy Cross
95 Nichols Road
Nesconset NY

Tuesday, February 20th
9A-2P

Services for adults (18 and older):

- Brief cardiac history
- 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)

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 _____
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 Town _____
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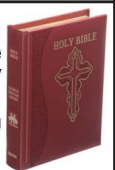
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