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.



He was
transfigured
before them,
and his face
shone like the sun,
and his clothes
became white
as light.

Matthew 17:2

Come and pray with us!

Second Sunday of Lent - March 5, 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

Mrs. Judith Pickel

Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112 Director of Religious Ed.

Deacon Joseph Maffeo Pastoral Minister, ext.124

Mrs. Michele Hall

Pastoral Associate, ext.120

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 Jo Barry **Barbara Bombace** Dan Bryan **Judy Carlson** Jason DeLuca Ann Egan Ralph Farino **Linda Heinrichs**

Diane Jones Roberta Lamb Gerald Losquadro Viola Malek Jeanne Marie Malley Loretto Narducci **Mary Polik-Gunther** Liam Richards

> **Barbara Sherry Kyle Sweeney Peter Warns**

Theresa Arzillo **Kathy Barry** Cole Brennan Ann Callari **Pattie Daly-Matonti** Manuela Diaz

Syl Evangelista Sienna Fricke Debbie Jablinowski **Kristen Kennedy**

Dora Libretti **Charlotte Lynch** Erin & baby Malley

Olivia Melia Cornelia Polik Carina Ranieri Elaine Ruane **Celeste Sichenze**

Bill Tanner **Danny Youngworth** **Mass Intentions Schedule**

Week of Sunday, March 5th, 9AM Masses

Mon. Michael Murphy Jr. (living)

Tue. Patricia Conlin Demme

Wed. Maron Brady

Maureen O'Malley (living) Thu.

Saturday, March 11th, 5PM Mass

Colette Marie Cronk, Gerald J. Mascuch, Gena

Ryan, James Keane

Sunday, March 12th, Third Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto, Geralynn Fried,

Adelaye Chersevani, Victor J.

Chersevani

9:30 AM Frank Kane

11:30 AM People of the Parish

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick, please call 631-265-2200 x122.

FROM THE MOUNTAINTOP

by Father Michael

The Gospel for this weekend is the story of the Transfiguration that takes place on the top of the mountain. Whenever a scripture story takes place on a mountaintop, something significant is going to take place. There is tremendous mystery that surrounds this event, but indeed it was a profound moment for both the disciples and Jesus. Woven into the many details of this story are images of light. We hear about Jesus' face and clothes becoming as white as light. And from what is described as a bright cloud, a message comes forth about the unique relationship Jesus shares with his father.

We used this gospel and image of darkness and light in celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation this past week for 85 of our children who will be celebrating their First Holy Communion in the spring. It is always a joyful time to lead the little ones down the path of faith. While the focus is on the children, it is also a good time to offer a message to the adults. For most of the children, they are nervous and uncertain about what may happen, but in the end they find it a positive experience.

For the four of us from the Pastoral Team who participated in the Religious Education Congress in Anaheim last weekend, we would describe that as a mountaintop experience. (This had nothing to do with being next door to Space Mountain at Disneyland.) The conference was somewhat downsized from previous years, but still there were well over 10,000 participants for this weekend event. Most of the workshops we attended were informative and provided some insights to our ministries. But for all of us, the richness of the days were experienced in the Masses and prayer gatherings. It is hard to imagine how an arena that is mostly used for sporting events and concerts can become a sacred place for prayer. There were decorations that enhanced the appearance of the vast space. But it truly was the presence of so many people committed to their ministry, the Church, and the Lord that brought the place to abundant life.

For us who minister here at Holy Cross, we embrace that we have been called to serve this community. It is our mission to allow the power and presence of Christ to be experienced here through our different ministries. It was a beautiful gift to be the recipient of these rich moments in prayer and presence. It renews our desire to bring moments like that to Holy Cross.

Continue to allow these days of Lent to be a sacred and prayerful time for you. You need not have to climb a mountain or fly to the West Coast to experience a moment of grace. But you may need to seek some quiet time and put aside unnecessary distractions. May you come to know the peace and life of our Lord.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Weekly Calendar

Saturday, March 4th 11 AM

LEV. 2 RECONCILIATION Worship Area
 HOLY HOUR 3:45-4:45PM Worship Area

• YOUTH GROUP DINNER 6-8PM Wor. Ar., Atr.

Sunday, March 5th

• GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

• ANOINTING OF THE SICK 10:30AM Worship Area

Monday, March 6th 4 - 6 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS Atr., FJ Room

MEN'S PRAYER GROUP 7PM Chapel
 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Fr. Joe Room

Tuesday, March 7th

• IN STITCHES

• CONFIRM. INTERVIEWS 6-8PM Atr., Wor. Ar.

Wednesday, March 8th 11:30AM-2:30PM

• SENIORS Atrium

GARDEN COMMITTEE 4PM Fr. Joe Room
 CONFIRM. INTERVIEWS 6-8PM Wor. Ar., Atr.

• FUNDRAISING COMM. 7PM Fr. Joe Room

Thursday, March 9th

• SCRIPTURE STUDY

10 AM

Fr. Joe Room

Friday, March 10th 7-9:15 PM

• PRE-CANA WEEKEND Atr., Wor. Ar.

Saturday, March 11th 9 AM - 6 PM • PRE-CANA WEEKEND Atr., Wor. Ar.

Saturday, March 12th 1 PM

• BAPTISMS Worship Area

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

John Ahearn
Charles Armstrong
Paul Falcone
Maureen E. Jost
Kerri Ann Pavan
Robert Amato Pellizzi
Salvatore Ranieri
Kathleen M. Reed
Michelle Tomitz

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

Scripture Readings for March 12, 2023



- + Exodus 17:3-7
- + Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
- + John 4:5-15,19-26,39-42

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, March 11th/12th



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



Holy Cross Welcomes These Children Baptized in February

Joseph Ryan Modafferi Matthias David Muyters

Next weekend at the offertory we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Thank you for your support of this collection!

Pray for Our Military



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. Pray for peace!

WHAT'S NEW?

Men's Prayer Group Monday, March 6, @ 7:00PM

The Sacred Wound

"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, I will not believe "

During these days of Lent, it is appropriate to focus on the presence of the cross in our lives. It can be a painful place to be, but that is where we come to encounter the power of the Risen Christ. Join us!

What ever happened to . . .

- Basket Raffle
- Plant Sales
- Christmas Wreath Sales
- Cash Calendar



These were all events that were coordinated by the Fundraising Committee. For several ★ years now it has been on hiatus. It is time to gather again and organize events that will be both a source of fun and funds. If you are interested, please join us for a meeting on:

> Wednesday, March 8, @ 7:00PM Fr. Joe Room

Easter Adult Choir

It's been a while since we've had the whole choir together, but we would like to call back former choir members as well as invite new members. We will be singing on Holy Thursday and at the Easter Vigil with three rehearsals prior to Easter. Join us for the rehearsals on



 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$

Thursday, March 23, and Tuesdays, March 28 and April 4 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Please contact Brian Reich our Music Director at 631-949-9134.

EVENING FOR LITURGICAL MINISTERS

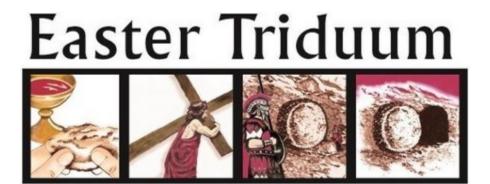
Parish of the Holy Cross

Evening of Reflection for All Liturgical Ministers

Guest Speaker: Sr. Mary Alice Piil, CSJ

Thursday, March 16th, at 7 PM in the Worship Area

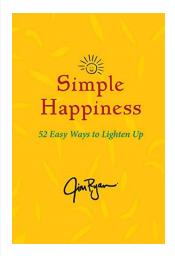
"Liturgical Ministry: A Unqiue Opportunity to Lead Others into the Paschal Mystery"



PARISH MISSION

Join us for our Parish Mission

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday March 20, 21 & 22 at 7 PM







Jim Ryan is the author of the book,

Simple Happiness: 52 Easy Ways to Lighten Up.

Thousands of people all over the United States have been inspired and motivated to change and live more joyful and fulfilled lives.

Topics for the Evenings

Monday, March 20

Simple Happiness - Eight Characteristics of Happy People

Tuesday, March 21

Managing Thought, the Key to Experiencing God's Love

Wednesday, March 22

Start to Live Heaven on Earth

Treat yourself to three hours of graced listening and spiritual refreshment. Allow the gifts of God to pour over you as you open your heart to God's love for you!

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing in this week of reflection and prayer.



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 32 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 2022, our Outreach pantry served an average of 96 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 enables us to meet their needs.

PARISH OUTREACH

Press a Girl Around the World

Cut-Ups: (those who cut the material and assemble our dress kits)



Our "Cut-Ups" will meet
Thursday, March 30th, from 1PM
to 3PM 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 larger pieces of cotton fabric (2-3 yards) for the body of the dress. 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!

WINTER WINDFALL

★ Congratulations to the following ★ Winter Windfall winners!

$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Longrightarrow}$	Winter Windfall winners!		
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$	<u>Amount</u>	Name •	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\longrightarrow}$	\$25	Marilyn Collins	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\cancel{\sim}}$	\$25	Jessica Mulderig	
$\stackrel{\frown}{\bigstar}$	\$25	Paul Wangenstein	
$\stackrel{\sim}{\updownarrow}$	\$25	Modzel Family	
	\$25	Marty Powers	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Longrightarrow}$	\$25	Wendy Ringhiser	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\nearrow}$	\$25	Anthony Sangimino	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\longrightarrow}$	\$25	Larry Marino	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\longrightarrow}$	\$25	Wendy Ringhiser	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$	\$25	Ellen Sottung	
$\stackrel{\frown}{\bigstar}$	\$25	Phyllis Sangimino	
	\$25	Jeff & Laura Hulse	
$\stackrel{\star}{\sim}$	\$25	Eva Hallam	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Longrightarrow}$	\$25	Connie Lipnicki	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$	\$25	Laura Holst	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\nearrow}$	\$25	Karen Ross	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Longrightarrow}$	\$25	Jake Chaz Modica	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$	\$25	Evelyn Dastis	
$\stackrel{\cdot}{\not\!$	\$25	Beckham Dunbar	
$\frac{1}{2}$	\$50	Connie Lipnicki	
	\$50	Jennifer & Charles Miller	
$\stackrel{\bigstar}{\swarrow}$	\$50	Connie Lipnicki	
\star	\$50	Sisters of St. Joseph	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\sim}$	\$50	Anita & Joe Cloonan	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\longrightarrow}$	\$50	Wendy Ringhiser	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$	\$50	Paul Wangenstein	
☆	\$50	Frances Dolan	
$\stackrel{\sim}{\bigstar}$	\$50	Frank & Maryellen McCutchen	
	\$50	Doreen Hau	
$\stackrel{\bigstar}{\swarrow}$	\$50	Geraldine Schreiber	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Longrightarrow}$	\$50	Carol Cook	
$\stackrel{\star}{\nearrow}$	\$100	Marianne Nawrocki-Caruso	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\Rightarrow}$	\$100	Charles Schreiber	
$\stackrel{\wedge}{\longrightarrow}$	\$500	Dave Ryder	

Knights of Columbus

The Holy Cross Blessed Sacrament Council of the Knights of Columbus is having a <u>FREE Informational</u> <u>Night</u> about insurance policies offered by the Knights of Columbus as well as advice for retirement planning... OPEN TO EVERYONE...SPOUSES INCLUDED. Join us for this <u>Fraternal Benefits Night</u> on March 9th at 7:30 PM at our brother council, St. Gerard Majella, 300 Terry Road, Port Jefferson Station, NY.

UPDATE: The Knights of Columbus brothers and wives attended the 9:30 Mass on February 19th and thereafter enjoyed breakfast together at Hauppauge Palace Diner.



Lent 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

In our Gospel for the First Sunday of Lent, Saint Matthew tells us that before Jesus began His public ministry, He was "led by the Spirit into the desert" (Mt. 4:1), where He prayed, fasted, and gave Himself over to a life of Gospel poverty. Lent is the sacred time in which, following the example of Jesus, we are led by the same Holy Spirit into the solitude of the desert to deepen our relationship with the Father and purify our hearts to become like the Son. The Spirit that draws each of us into this period of preparation does so through the practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These three pillars of Lenten observance call us away from the selfishness of sin and lead us to a deeply personal encounter with Jesus Christ.

Recognizing that many have never experienced this personal relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit has led our local Church to embark on a period of Eucharistic Revival-a movement aimed at leading many to encounter Jesus by restoring understanding and devotion to the great mystery of the Eucharist. Following the Spirit's desire to rekindle Eucharistic amazement in our hearts, let us reflect on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as practices deeply rooted in devotion to the Body and Blood of Jesus.

The Mass is the greatest prayer of the Church, the "source and summit of the Christian life" (CCC 1324). Lenten prayer focused on the Eucharist calls us to rediscover the Catholic practice of praying the Mass by offering our intentions, work, hardships, and family life as "spiritual sacrifices" united to the priest's offering of the Lord's Body (Lumen Gentium, 34). In this way the great prayer of the Church becomes the great prayer of our lives: the summit to which all our daily sacrifices are directed and the source from which graces flow into everyday life.

Prayerfully receiving the Eucharist not only requires bodily fasting from food but also spiritual fasting from worldly attachments that keep us from communion with God. At prayer in the desert, Christ rejects the temptations of Satan by reciting a scripture verse from Deuteronomy 8:3, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." The Lord recognizes that bodily fasting becomes a prayer only when it moves us to cling to God's Word. This Lent may we take time to prepare for the Sunday Eucharist not only by fasting, but also by meditating on the weekly scriptures.

In the second century, Saint Justin Martyr wrote one of the earliest accounts of the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. He recounts that after the breaking of the bread, the early Christians would be moved to give alms and "take care of all who are in need" (First Apology, 67). The Church has always recognized an inseparable bond between the sacrifice of the Mass and the sacrifice of almsgiving. Saint John Chrysostom even understood almsgiving as a Eucharistic action. He described the poor person as an "altar" where one could encounter the Body of Christ and offer everywhere a daily sacrifice (Homily 20 on Second Corinthians). As we remember the sacrifice of Christ at each Sunday Eucharist, may we always remember the poor.

Christ entered the desert for 40 days to prepare for the mission ahead of Him. Following the Lord's example, we enter the Lenten desert of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving with the goal of becoming Eucharistic missionaries. The Holy Spirit is leading each of us to a personal encounter with the Lord and calling us to pray and fast for the conversion of many hearts during this grace-filled moment of Eucharistic Revival.

Let us follow the Spirit's guidance with open hearts ready to receive the Lord; and may the heart of Jesus, in the Most Blessed Sacrament, be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world, even to the end of time.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend John O. Barres

Bishop of Rockville Centre

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TAKE A CHANCE!

Spring Cash Fling

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 "*Spring Cash Fling*." This is a similar idea, however it will be offered initially on a quarterly basis.

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through March, April and May.
- Drawing will be held May 31st.

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!

NI	Spring Cash Fling	Spring Cash Fling	
Name		Name	
Address		Address	
Town		Town	
Phone		Phone	
Name	Spring Cash Fling	Spring Cash Fling Name	
Address		Name Address	
			
Town		Town	
10WII		Town	

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