

The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



“And this is my prayer:

That your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ..”

Philippians 1:9-10

Come and pray with us!

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 9, 2018

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.*

WE CELEBRATE EUCHARIST

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 A.M. (Chapel)

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.

Sunday: 8:00 A.M. + 9:30 A.M. + 11:30 A.M.

WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM

Baptisms are generally celebrated twice each month at 1 P.M. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:45 P.M.—4:30 P.M.

or call Father Michael for an appointment.

WE CELEBRATE WEDDINGS

Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net
Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (closed 12:15-1:00 PM)

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
Pastor

Ms. Kathleen Reid
Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Mary Anne Mc Culloch
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate

Deacon Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Tricia Clarke
Business Manager

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Salvatore Finocchiaro
Coordinator of Youth Ministries

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Barbara Shipman
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Mrs. Elizabeth Shea
P/T Office Assistant

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister

Mr. Roberto Maza
Mr. Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mrs. Mary Pannone
Religious Education Secretary
(hcreled@optonline.net)

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



December 15th/16th

5:00 PM	Fr. Frank Eisele
8:00 AM	Fr. Frank
9:30 AM	Fr. Michael/Dcn. Ralph
11:30 AM	Fr. Michael/Dcn. Ralph

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of December 9, 9AM Mass

Mon.	Joan Swanson
Tue.	Charles Inghilterra
Wed.	John O'Shea
Thu.	Eleanor Rizzo

Saturday, December 15th, 5 PM Mass

Antonia Minerva, Joan Klages, Raphael Gonzalez,
Mary McGeough, Frank Perna, Helen Gallagher

Sunday, December 16th, 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM	People of the Parish
9:30 AM	Anthony DeVito Jr.
11:30 AM	Bob Davison, Antonia Minerva, Millie Rienzi, Peggy Fitzgerald, Victor Chersevani, Victor M. Chersevani, Stephen Pino

Remembering Our Sick

Please pray for the sick of our parish, their families and caregivers:

Maria Conte Maryann League
Paul Malley

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

Scripture Readings for December 16, 2018



+ Zephaniah 3:14-18
+ Philippians 4:4-7
+ Luke 3:10-18



Banns of Marriage First Time

Nicole Foronjy & William Knipper Jr.

More than Just Stuff for Sale

by Father Michael

I have had some success in attending a few liquidation sales through the years. When the Sands Casino in Atlantic City closed in 2006, I participated in the grand clearance. At the time, I was chaplain at St. John the Baptist High School. I was able to buy thousands of dollars worth of stage lighting equipment for the school for a few hundred bucks. More recently, I purchased a flat screen TV and some outdoor wicker furniture from the former Taj Mahal, also in Atlantic City. While there is something adventurous about having free reign to wander around these big old places, there is also a sadness because of the many people who lost their jobs when the businesses closed.

This past week there was another liquidation sale that was particularly poignant. The former Retreat House and Retirement Facility of the Ursuline Sisters in Blue Point was selling off the entire contents of the house. The community made the decision a few years ago that the best plan for utilizing their resources was to sell that facility. With great sadness the Retreat Center closed its doors, and the Sisters were relocated. After several years on the market, the building was purchased by the Bay Point/Blue Point School District and will be converted into a library. We picked up a few pieces of furniture to use here at the parish. I was hoping to acquire some liturgical items that we could have put to good use here, but that never materialized.

There are countless people on Long Island who had great experiences of prayer in that location or whose lives were somehow enhanced through the ministry of the Sisters. It is a loss for the greater Church. But, it is also so difficult for the older Sisters who envisioned spending their retirement years in a place they loved. I have a sense of gratitude for the blessing received through their service. I also have a sense of sadness in the pain that has been experienced in this time of transition.

(By the way, this weekend is the annual collection to support the Retired Religious fund for those who have served our Diocese). Thank you for your support.

I continue to enjoy happy memories of my retreat in Gloucester. Someone once said, "Silence is God's first language." This is abundantly true. It is remarkable what happens when we are given the opportunity to close our mouths and open our ears. God can speak richly in the silence. It was a gift to be separated from TV and news commentators. At times the silence can be challenging, but it yields life giving and energizing fruit.

Kitchen renovation at the Parish House is in full swing. As many of you have experienced, you get used to using paper plates and figuring out creative ways to prepare and clean up after meals. I'm looking forward to its completion!



Christmas 2018 Schedule
The Nativity of the Lord

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 22nd, 2018: 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 23rd, 2018

8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Christmas Eve Masses

Monday, December 24th, 2018

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses

Tuesday, December 25th, 2018

8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon

Solemnity of Mary

Monday, December 31st, 2018: 5:00 pm

Tuesday, January 1st, 2019: 10:00 am

Confessions

Saturdays in Advent: 3:45 pm to 4:30 pm

Monday, December 17th, 2018 after 9:00 am Mass

& 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello everyone! If you made your Confirmation, then come with a friend and check out the wonderful opportunities the Youth Group has for you!

The Youth Group hopes everyone had a wonderful Youth Night last Sunday. Here are pictures from the evening. The teens wrapped 85 blankets for the residents of the Nesconset Nursing Center, who we're visiting this weekend. The Youth Night was an amazing, fun-filled experience as the teens worked together to give back to the Nesconset community.



Here are our upcoming youth events! Take a look:

- **Sunday, December 9th:** The Youth Group will be gathering for an 11:30AM Youth Mass with the Core Band. Then, the YG will be going out to lunch. After that, we will be joining the residents at the Nesconset Nursing Center for Christmas festivities! :-)
- **Sunday, December 16:** The Youth Group will be gathering for an 11:30AM Youth Mass with the Core Band. Then, the YG will participate in an Ugly Christmas Sweater Acoustic Cafe event from 12:30 to 3PM. The event will take place in the Atrium.

So, if you are thinking about coming to the Church to see what we are all about, do it! You will not regret it. Come with a friend or family member, and join us as we continue to grow in the endless love of Christ. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you are thinking about joining us and you would like more information, then please do not hesitate to contact Sal Finocchiaro, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, at hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com or call the parish office!

ATTENTION HOLY CROSS FAMILIES!

Each year, on the Third Sunday of Advent, children gather with their families in St. Peter's Square in Rome for "Bambinelli Sunday." The children bring with them the figures of the Christ Child - the "Bambinelli" - from their family's crèche, and the children and figurines are blessed by the Pope.

We will be celebrating *Bambinelli Sunday* here at Holy Cross on the weekend of **December 15th, 16th**, at all our Masses. Everyone (young and old alike) is invited to bring your figure of the Christ Child for a special blessing.

May Jesus fill your hearts and homes with peace, love, and joy!



CASH CALENDAR



Christmas Blessings



Parish of the Holy Cross Cash Calendar December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 \$50
2 \$50	3 \$50	4 \$50	5 \$50	6 \$50	7 \$50	8 \$500
9 \$50	10 \$50	11 \$50	12 \$50	13 \$50	14 \$50	15 \$50
16 \$50	17 \$50	18 \$50	19 \$50	20 \$50	21 \$50	22 \$50
23 \$50	24 \$50	25 \$50	26 \$50	27 \$50	28 \$50	29 \$50
30 \$50	31 \$50	<i>\$10 PER CHANCE ~ 31 CHANCES TO WIN ~ \$50 PER DAY \$500 ON DECEMBER 8, FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION</i>				

Cash Calendar, DECEMBER 2018

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Cash Calendar, DECEMBER 2018

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MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Saturday, December 8th	9 AM
• IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS	Worship Area
• HOLY HOUR	3:45-4:45 PM Worship Area
Sunday, December 9th	11:30 AM
• LEVEL 7 & YOUTH MASS	Worship Area
• YOUTH DAY EVENT	12:30PM Off Site
• BAPTISMS	1PM Worship Area
Monday, December 10th	5 - 6 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES	Atrium
Tuesday, December 11th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
Saturday, December 15th	5 PM
• BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI	Worship Area
Sunday, December 16th	All Masses
• BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI	Worship Area
• YOUTH MASS	11:30AM Worship Area
• YOUTH DAY EVENT	12:30PM Atrium

MUSIC MINISTRY CDs

We have some Holy Cross Music Ministry CDs left and will be selling them at all the Masses on the weekend of December 15th/16th.

They make great Christmas gifts, so please consider purchasing a CD next weekend!

SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend at the offertory we will also be collecting for the **Religious Retirement Fund**. Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests need your help. Many served for years in Catholic schools, hospitals and parishes—often for little to no pay. Now, there is a shortage in retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious provides funding for medications, nursing care and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime. Thank you!

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



School Rights at the Christmas Season

www.cffor.org

- *Public school students' written or spoken personal expressions about Christmas (e.g. "Jesus is the reason for the season" T-shirts) may not be censored by school officials.
- *Teachers are permitted to wear Christmas-related clothing or jewelry so long as they are generally permitted to wear them about other holidays.
- *Public schools may teach students about the Christmas holiday, including its religious significance, so long as it is taught objectively for secular purposes such as its historical or cultural importance.
- *Teachers may send Christmas cards to the families of their students so long as they do so on their own time, outside of school hours.
- *Public schools may include Christmas music, including those with religious themes, in their choral programs if the songs are included for a secular purpose such as their musical quality or cultural value or if the songs are part of an overall performance including other holiday songs.
- *Public schools may not require students to sing Christmas songs whose messages conflict with the students' own religious or nonreligious views.

Compiled by the Rutherford Institute Attorneys

"Mankind is a great, an immense family. . . This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas."

Pope John Paul XXIII





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