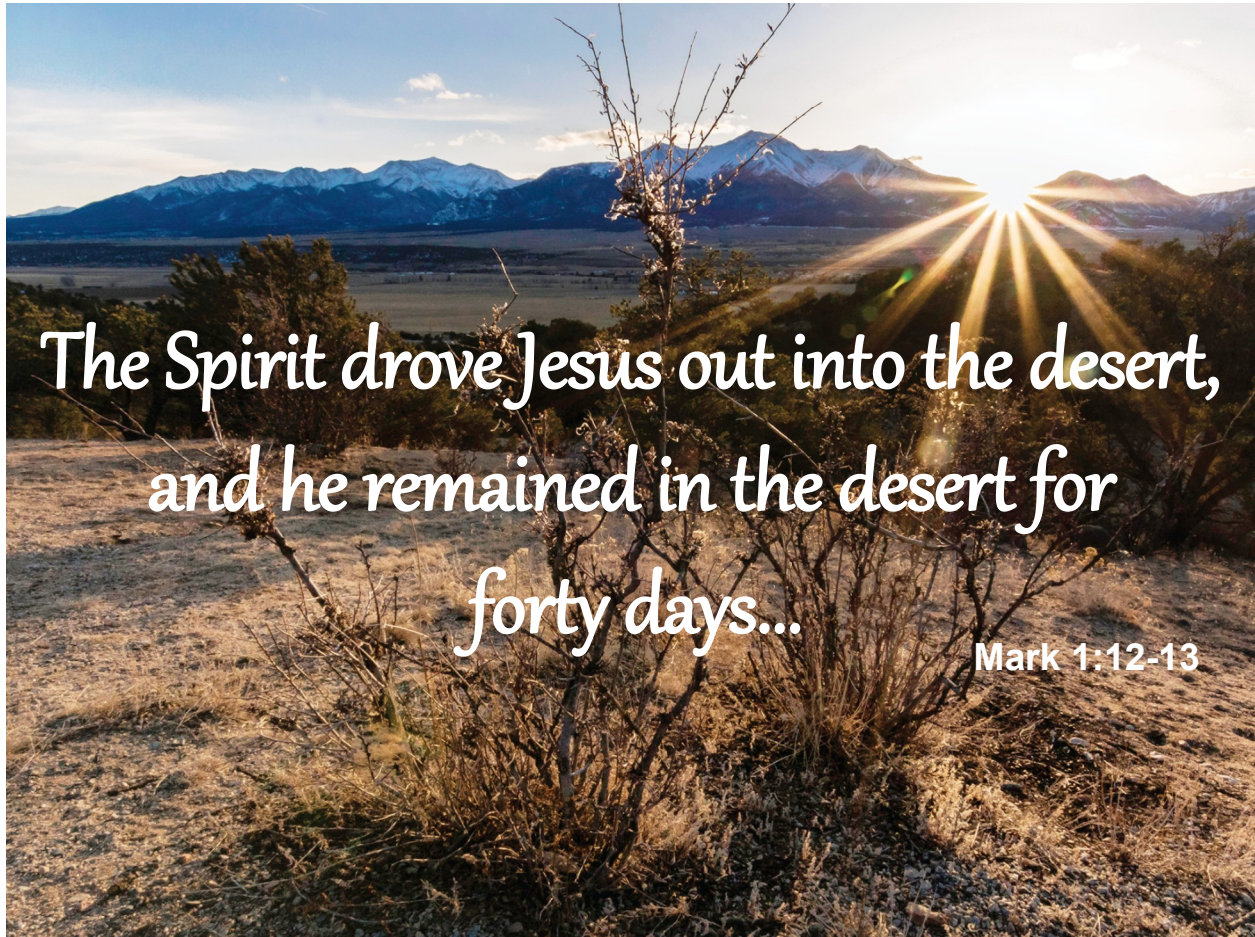


# *The Parish of the Holy Cross*

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +  
www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**Come and pray with us!**

**First Sunday of Lent - February 18, 2018**

#### **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 RECONCILIATION**

Saturday: 3:45 P.M.—4:30 P.M.

or call Father Michael for an appointment.

#### **WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM**

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

#### **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  
 Ms. Patricia Gyscek  
 Co-Coordinators of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Judith Pickel  
 Pastoral Associate

Deacon Ralph Rivera  
 Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Elizabeth Shea  
 Business Manager

Mr. Brian Reich  
 Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Salvatore Finocchiaro  
 Coordinator of Youth Ministries

## PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth  
 Parish Secretary

Dr. Vincent Mazurek  
 Music Minister

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

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

Mr. Gerald Farrell  
 Mr. Vincent Matula  
 Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra  
 Weekend Sacristan

### Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



#### February 24th/25th

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

### Mass Intentions Schedule



#### Week of February 18th, 9AM Mass

**Tue.** Peter Mastrapolo  
**Wed.** Catherine Holzmann  
**Thu.** Debbie Wilkinson

#### Saturday, February 24th, 5 PM Mass

Eileen Kamine, James Eng, Catherine Holzmann,  
 Theresa Schwarz, Ruth Schwarz McDowell

#### Sunday, February 25th, 2nd Sunday of Lent

**8:00 AM** Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto  
**9:30 AM** People of the Parish  
**11:30 AM** Victor Lamarque, Catherine LoMonaco,  
 Gerald DeGregorio, Mary Hirsch,  
 Ping Li, Victor Chersevani

### Remembering Our Sick

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

**Denise Lamarque Annie Santamaria**

If you would like to have the name of your loved  
 one listed for 4 weeks in our prayers for the sick,  
 please contact the Parish Office at 631.265.2200.

### Scripture Readings for February 25, 2018



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

*The Bread and Wine for the  
 week February 18th - 24th  
 have been donated in loving  
 memory of **Richard P. Canalini**  
 by **MaryAnn Canalini & family.***



# Away We Go with Lent

*by Father Michael*

Our Mardi Gras celebration was a great success last Sunday. In spite of dreadful weather and heavy downpours, well over 150 parishioners were part of the festivities. The younger children enjoyed making masks and playing games. We showed a few short videos that provided some history and background to Mardi Gras. And, everyone enjoyed a bowl or two of ice cream. Our gratitude to all who helped. A special thank you to members of our Youth Group who assisted in many ways throughout the day.

I was reading a bulletin from another parish that was also having a Mardi Gras celebration. But, I noticed they had a \$10 cover charge for both adults and children. (I don't know all the details, but perhaps theirs was more elaborate with food and entertainment.) There are times when there may be financial obligations that require us to ask for your help, but not every gathering needs to be a fundraiser. I am happy that we have the ability and the mindset to simply offer an afternoon like this free of charge for our families. We had to spend a few dollars for this event, but it is more important to have opportunities like this to gather as a community and share happy moments with fellow parishioners.

I have begun my annual round of home visitations to our Level 7 classes in our Religious Education program. I enjoy meeting with the students. Most of our time is spent in answering questions they have. While it is logistically complicated to work out all of the visits, it is a worthwhile endeavor and I welcome this opportunity to spend time with the kids. I learned a lesson this week. There are both a Louis Court and a Louis Place in Nesconset. Only one of them is where one of our classes takes place. Guess which one I found?

Making these home visits prompts me to once again make my little Public Service Announcement. Imagine there is a first responder trying to find your home in an emergency. How visible is your house number, particularly at night? Sometimes finding the right house is a bit more of a hide and seek project than it should be.

The morning Mass now begins at 9:05. Our space in the chapel is cozy, so it is noticeable when there are many latecomers. We had a "chat" with those who attend daily Mass and decided to try building in a little cushion of time to help minimize any distractions.

The offices are closed on Monday in observance of the Presidents' Day holiday. There will be no morning Mass on Monday.

May these days of Lent be holy and prayerful for you.



*The Parish Office is closed on Monday, February 19th, for Presidents' Day.  
There will not be a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.*

# PARISH OUTREACH

## EAT SIMPLY... SO OTHERS MAY SIMPLY EAT

As we enter the season of Lent we are reminded that our 40 day journey provides the opportunity to evaluate our relationship with the Lord, with our neighbors and with the world. Prayer, fasting and works of charity are activities we employ to assist us in improving these aspects of our daily life.

For the last twenty-seven years, we at Holy Cross have embraced a special Lenten Parish Project, **EAT SIMPLY SO OTHERS MAY SIMPLY EAT**. EAT SIMPLY is a voluntary way for us to be involved in consciously sacrificing 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 in need and hungry right here in our own area. **During 2017, our Outreach pantry served approximately 100 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.

**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 feed those who are struggling in our local area. We are continually grateful for the very generous response of our parishioners of Holy Cross in donating money, food and supermarket gift cards, which allows us to meet their needs.

# LENTEN ACTIVITIES

## *Our Journey through Lent*



As we journey through Lent, each of us is called to focus more deeply on prayer, fasting, and alms-giving (acts of charity). How many of the following activities will be part of your Lenten plan?

***Eat Simply... So Others May Simply Eat:*** Our special parish Lenten project - an invitation to families to eat simpler meals together during Lent, and then contribute the monetary savings for our struggling neighbors.

***Operation Rice Bowl:*** A Lenten project for children in our Religious Education Program, in which they save their coins during Lent to donate to Catholic Relief Services for the good work they do throughout the world.

***Divine Mercy in the Chapel:*** Four Fridays during Lent: **February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2018 at 3:00 PM.** A time to reflect on the mercy of God and offer our prayers for our loved ones.

***Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction:*** Four Fridays during Lent: **February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2018 at 4:00 PM.** Come and sit in the presence of Christ, before the Blessed Sacrament, and offer up your prayers.

***Stations of the Cross Video:*** Four Fridays during Lent: **February 23, March 2, 9, 16, 2018 at 6:00 PM.** Meditate on the passion and death of Jesus as you make the Way of the Cross.

***Parish Soup Supper:*** Thursday, **March 8, 2018, 6:30 PM.** An opportunity to come together as a parish family and share a simple meal.

***Prayer Service with Reconciliation:*** Tuesday, **March 13, 2018, 7:00 PM.** An evening of prayer followed by the opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance.

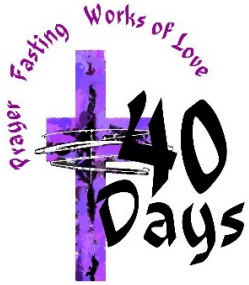
***Long Island Cares Food Drive:*** The weekend of **March 17/18, 2018, all Masses.** Parishioners bring non-perishable food items to Mass this weekend to help support food assistance for over 300, 000 people on Long Island.

***Tenebrae:*** Friday, **March 23, 2018, 7:30 PM.** A prayer service with Scripture readings and music, meditating on the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

***Sacrament of Reconciliation:*** Monday, **March 26, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00, and 5:30 – 8:00 PM.** Opportunities to celebrate the sacrament with Fr. Michael.

*Watch future bulletins or our website for the Holy Week schedule.*

# LENTEN ACTIVITIES



## What will you do this Lent?

**What will bring you closer to God?**

**What will make you a better person?**

- Create a list of 40 happy, holy, and meaningful things for you to do, one for each day of Lent.
- Give up/reduce use of Technology.
- Reach out to family and friends with whom you have lost touch.
- Substitute TV time with family time.
- Give up Starbucks, McDonald's, etc. and use the money you would spend for some worthwhile cause.
- Turn off the car radio and use that time for prayer or reflection.
- Renew your New Year's resolution.
- Participate in our "Eat Simply" program.
- Take 5 minutes before bedtime to review your day: ask for forgiveness for the times you messed up, and say "thank you" for the blessings of the day.
- Say a prayer at the family dinner table for those who have little to eat.
- Make a short visit/bring a small meal to someone who is homebound.
- Attend Mass during the week.
- Bring extra food to Parish Outreach.
- Get up a little early to spend five minutes praying.
- Pray the Stations of the Cross.
- Fast from gossiping.
- Offer a helping hand without being asked.
- Re-read Sunday's Gospel and take five minutes to reflect on it.
- Give up an unhealthy habit, like smoking.
- Choose your words carefully, to avoid being hurtful or judgmental.

# ATTENTION: LITURGICAL MINISTERS!



## The Parish of the Holy Cross

### Holy Week Sign Up Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:**

Altar Server       Lector       Usher       Extraordinary Minister

I am not available to serve Holy Week and Easter \_\_\_\_\_.

I am available, and interested to serve at:

**Palm Sunday** - March 25, 2018

8:00 AM                       11:00 AM  
 9:30 AM                       12:30 PM

**Holy Thursday** - March 29, 2018

9:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Lector only)  
 8:00 PM - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday** - March 30, 2018

9:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Lector only)  
 3:00 PM - Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

**Holy Saturday** - March 31, 2018

9:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Lector only)  
 8:00 PM - Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday** - April 1, 2018

8:00 AM                       11:00 AM  
 9:30 AM                       12:30 PM



Holy Week

**Please drop in the basket or return to the Parish Office NO LATER than Sunday, February 18, 2018. Thank you for your help in helping us get our Holy Week Schedule completed ASAP!**



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

LENT 2018

Dear Friends:

As we look to the future we are aware that we continue to face difficulties both here on Long Island and in our country at large. Whether they involve the opioid epidemic, gang violence, racism, or any other threat, a deep trust and reliance on the Risen Christ is necessary for us to advance and make progress in dealing with these problems.

In order to better welcome the Resurrected Jesus into our hearts, a solid Lenten spirituality grounded in prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the needs of the Church and the World is essential.

On Wednesday, April 4, 2018 we will commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the tragic death of Dr. Martin Luther King. Our commemoration of this anniversary falls appropriately between Easter Sunday (April 1) and Divine Mercy Sunday (April 8).

I would ask that during the Lenten season we all prepare for this historic anniversary by dedicating dimensions of our Lenten prayer, fasting and almsgiving to the pursuit of racial harmony and comprehensive immigration reform grounded in the principles of the sanctity of human life and the dignity of the human person.

By aligning our Lent in solidarity with our African American and Hispanic brothers and sisters and the injustices they have suffered and are suffering, we dream and act with Dr. King and his clarion call for justice in our land.

We dream and act in a way that treasures the African American legacy of contribution in this country. We dream and act in a way that not only welcomes our Hispanic brothers and sisters but expresses our deep appreciation for their gifts and leadership in the Church and in American society, and we advocate together for comprehensive immigration reform.<sup>1</sup>

We also think and pray globally this Lent as we remember the people in North Korea, Jerusalem and every country in the Middle East, Bangladesh, Haiti, Venezuela, South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi, The Democratic Republic of the Congo, The Central African Republic, Nigeria and every war-torn and poverty-stricken area of the World.

We remember the poor, the homeless, the unemployed, those who suffer with mental illness, chronic physical illness and pain. We remember the hundreds of thousands of unborn children whose innocent lives are taken every year through abortion and the terrible toll this takes on individuals, families and our entire society.

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<sup>1</sup> See Bishop Barres' September 21, 2017 Founder's Week Keynote Address at St. John's University entitled *The Relationship between Catholic Sacramental Theology and Catholic Social Justice Teaching: The Sacrament of Penance in Service of 'Welcoming the Stranger'* in the January 2018 edition of *The Long Island Catholic*.



We remember the addicted and particularly those who suffer opioid addiction, those ensnared in the culture of death of gangs, drug trade, human trafficking, and their victims -- who are often children -- at the borders, those who suffer violations of religious liberty and the sanctity of human life, those who suffer from the trauma of sexual abuse and all forms of abuse, harassment or cyberbullying, those in the midst of a family or marital crisis, those who grieve the loss of a child, a spouse, a friend, a loved one. We remember the painful crosses that our elderly carry and we give thanks for the wisdom and prayer that they model for us.

And, of course, we remember our servicemen and women overseas and their families back home, and our first responders here. We remember our Veterans and their sacrifices.<sup>2</sup>

As we prepare for the Easter Vigil Fire and for Easter Sunday, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide and refresh us during this Season of Lent. So often the cycles and seasons of life can become routine and stale. When applied specifically to Lent, we may find ourselves doing the same things each year, which results in them becoming commonplace and no longer a challenge.

A frequent theme for Lent is “giving something up”. Many times this takes the form of refraining from junk food or sweets. This is a good challenge, but it is important to remember that Lent should not be just a time for losing weight; fasting without prayer is just dieting. Additionally, food is not all that we “consume”.

All the things we allow into our senses are important to examine. What we watch, what we listen to are just as important as what we eat. One thing we consume in great quantities is social media.

Like all technology, do we use our social media for good or do we become consumed by it? Social media can help us connect with people and provide us important and relevant information but it can also be used to waste valuable time or to engage in angry, critical arguments.

During Lent may I suggest that we do an examination of conscience in regard to our use of social media? Can we intentionally leverage every dimension of our presence on a range of social media platforms to pursue *dramatic missionary growth* on Long Island?

We may do that by giving testimony on Facebook to a positive experience of a Catholic parish, a Catholic Bible Study or a Catholic school. We may post an image on Pinterest or Periscope of a parish activity or Holy Hour experience that was particularly meaningful. We might establish a link on our platform to the *Long Island Catholic*.

We might witness on a social media platform as a married couple or family about the value of the Sacrament of Penance to family forgiveness and unity as we encourage other families we know to participate in *Reconciliation Monday* on Monday, March 26, 2018.

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<sup>2</sup> These intentions reflect some of the intentions Bishop Barres mentioned in his Christmas Midnight Mass and Christmas Morning homily thus giving some continuity to our prayers and sacrifices across liturgical seasons.

Our dedicated priests, who are both humble penitents and compassionate confessors, will be available in the confessionals of all our parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 3:00PM – 9:00PM. Please note that the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn join us in this effort so if you are working in Manhattan or Brooklyn that day you could easily go to confession at a nearby parish.

We can also use our social media platforms to follow Catholics who put forth holy and wholesome content that can enrich us spiritually and intellectually. We can follow the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the Office of Vocations, Catholic Charities, and so many more. Additionally we can follow Pope Francis and the Vatican, Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire* and other social media with inspiring and motivating Catholic content.

Related to social media, we may tend to “binge watch” videos whether through YouTube or streaming services. This content in and of itself might not be bad, but does it always lift us spiritually? Telecare can aid us in prayers like the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet as well as its inspiring programming.

Additionally, the Augustine Institute has started a new initiative called FORMED. This is an app that has many eBooks we can put on our Kindles and iPads, lectures and talks we can listen to on our phones during our commutes to work and school, and Catholic movies and presentations that we can stream online, almost like a Catholic Netflix.

Many of our parishes on Long Island have already invested in FORMED and are strategizing about how best to have a higher percentage of parishioners to be actively “formed” by the excellent content.

Finally, outside of the realm of media, something that always nourishes and enriches us is the Sacraments. Frequent reception of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation help re-center and reorder us. May this Lent be a source of *dramatic missionary growth* both in our lives and for our great Diocese and beyond.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

# CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



*“May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.”*

*- Pope Francis*

## Almsgiving in Lent

**During the Lenten Season we are asked to pray, fast and give alms.**

Lent is a perfect time for us to pray for those in need - whether it is for their material, emotional or spiritual needs.

And when you practice fasting and abstinence during these forty days, please remember those of our neighbors who are hungry, and consider sharing your gifts with them.

One way to do this is by making a gift to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**, which supports programs that help to feed people in our community each year through Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach programs.



**Make checks payable to:  
Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Please consider donating to the Appeal and making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you!

Parish: Parish of the Holy Cross - 176

Pledge: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Down payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# CASH CALENDAR



February 2018 ~Parish of the Holy Cross ~  
Cash Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 \$50	2 \$50	3 \$50
4 \$50	5 \$50	6 \$50	7 \$50	8 \$50	9 \$50	10 \$50
11 \$50	12 \$50	13 \$50	14 \$500	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	Notes: \$10 PER CHANCE \$50 PER DAY \$500 ON February 14 28 CHANCES TO WIN		

Cash Calendar FEBRUARY 2018

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Calendar FEBRUARY 2018

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Cash Calendar FEBRUARY 2018

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## MEETINGS THIS WEEK

**Saturday, February 17th** 10:00 AM  
 • WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT Fr. Joe Room

**Monday, February 19th**  
 (The Parish Office is closed for Presidents' Day-No morning Mass.)

**Tuesday, February 20th** 10:00 AM  
 • IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room

**Wednesday, February 21st** 11AM-2:30PM  
 • SENIORS Atrium

**Friday, February 23rd** 3:00 PM  
 • DIVINE MERCY Chapel  
 • EUCHARISTIC ADORATION 4PM Worship Area  
 • STATIONS OF THE CROSS 6PM Worship Area

**Sunday, February 25th** After 9:30 Mass  
 • PRAY THE ROSARY Chapel  
 • YOUTH NIGHT 6-8PM Atrium

## SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend, at the offertory we will also be collecting for the **Church in Need**. The monies collected at this time will be shared among three areas of the world where there is particular need for help: **The Church in Central and Eastern Europe, The Church in Latin America and The Church in Africa**. Thank you for your generosity.

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Hi Everyone! Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games and activities? If you made your Confirmation, then come with a friend and check out the wonderful opportunities the Youth Group has for you! We would love to see you! We will not be meeting this weekend because of Presidents' Day, but we'll be back on:

**Sunday, 2/25: Youth Night 6-8PM**

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](mailto:HCyouthgroup15@gmail.com) or call the parish office.



## DON'T FORGET!

*Join us on four Fridays of Lent:*

**February 23, March 2,9,16, 2018:**

- **3PM-Divine Mercy in the Chapel**  
A time to reflect on the mercy of God.
- **4PM-Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction**  
Come and sit in the presence of Christ.
- **6PM-Stations of the Cross Video**  
Meditate on the passion and death of Jesus.





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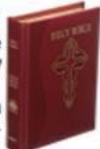


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