

# The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

[www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset](http://www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset)

**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**Come and pray with us!**

## **Divine Mercy Sunday - April 8, 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 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



#### April 14th/15th

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

### Mass Intentions Schedule



#### Week of April 8th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Patsy Maloney (living)  
**Tue.** Margaret Dyer  
**Wed.** Michael Dillon  
**Thu.** Marie Rizzo

#### Saturday, April 14th, 5 PM Mass

Bernard Cornell, Anna Giglioli, Katherine McGurn,  
 Denise Cicione, Sr. Roseann McHale

#### Sunday, April 15th, Third Sunday of Easter

**8:00 AM** Helen & Joseph Christian  
**9:30 AM** People of the Parish  
**11:30 AM** Thomas Carney, Denise Debobes,  
 Humberto Cruz, Laura Prinzo, Victor  
 Calabrese

### Remembering Our Sick

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

**Jean-Marie Malley      Paul Malley**  
**Edward Newman      Annie Santamaria**  
**Eric Schwarz**

### *Scripture Readings for April 15, 2018*



+ *Acts of the Apostles 3:13-15,17-19*  
 + *1 John 2:1-5*  
 + *Luke 24:35-48*

### Banns of Marriage - First Time



Christine Kessler & Jacob Kraniak  
 Joanna Smith & Christopher Foulkes  
 Jaime Lanzarone & Tyler Ostling

# Easter Blessings Continue

*by Father Michael*

In spite of unseasonably cool weather, our Holy Week and Easter celebrations were uplifting and inspiring. I love the energy that surrounds each of the days. In particular, on Easter it is always energizing to see so many people present. Attendance at all the services was higher than previous years. Both the 11:00 and 12:30 Masses on Sunday were standing room only.

I am grateful to all the many helping hands that came together to make these Holy Days as special as they were. Both our staff as well as many ministers work in cooperation in this effort. Our Worship Area is so beautifully decorated with bright flowers. It takes a great deal of creativity and skill to get all those plants in the right place (and then to keep them alive and blooming in the coming weeks). There are so many details, large and small, that need to be taken care of, and I appreciate all those who brought life to these celebrations. Many thanks.

One practical item that we need to evaluate is our modified Mass schedule for these days. In spite of our best efforts to communicate (parish wide mailing, website, bulletin notices, etc.) we had about 150 people show up on Palm Sunday for what they thought was an 11:30 Mass. It must be frustrating to arrive at what you think is the correct time only to find a different plan in place. Next year we will consider keeping the usual Sunday schedule and then adding the additional Mass at 1:00PM. I'm concerned that 1:00PM might be a tad late to start and 11:30AM will be overflowing, but it may be worth trying. We are trying to help people celebrate these holy days, not make life more complicated.

I think we all woke up on Monday morning to the dismay of another snowfall. We received the upper end of the predictions, and there was much more to shovel than we had hoped for. Unfortunately, this year will be a record setting one in terms of how much we have had to pay for plowing and keeping our pathways open and safe. This has been a rough winter for the trees as well. So many large branches broke free after being overloaded with wet snow. Both here at the parish and in many backyards in our neighborhood, the spring clean-up this year will be a major task.

Today is a particularly busy spiritual day here. In addition to the regular Masses, we have the Anointing of the Sick after the 9:30 Mass. Praying the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy will take place after the 11:30 Mass, followed by Confessions. And then to top the day off, I will baptize 4 babies at 2:00 PM. The Spirit abounds. Happy Easter!

**Divine Mercy Chaplet Prayer: This weekend after the 11:30 Mass. Bring your Rosary Beads!**

# 30TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT & MORE!

## Parish Concert! Sunday, April 15, 2018

In celebration of our 30 years, there will be an Anniversary Concert! Come see our different music ministers, our choir, and our youth band sing and pray some of our favorites! 3:00 start! We will serve refreshments and light snacks following. Please come and sing along with us!

## Basket Raffles

The wait is over! The Basket Raffle Fundraiser will be taking place the weekends of **April 14th-15th, 21st-22nd, and 28th-29th.**

Following the 11:30 Mass on April 29th, the lucky winners of the baskets will be drawn. Wine and cheese will be served. Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting our Parish Fundraiser.

Fundraising Committee



# 30TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE!



## Holy Cross Dinner Dance!

**SAVE THE DATE!** The Parish of the Holy Cross is celebrating its 30th Anniversary with a Dinner Dance!

**When:** Friday, October 19, 2018

**Where:** The Meadow Club, 1147 Route 112, Port Jefferson Station

**Time:** 7 - 11 PM

Tickets will be on sale beginning the weekend of May 19 & 20 after all the Masses. Plan to be with us as we celebrate this important milestone in the life of our parish!

# 30TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC!

## Holy Cross Parish Picnic

**Fun!**



**Save the Date!!!**

**Sunday, June 10th  
1PM - 5PM**

**Music!**

**Food!**

**at the Nesconset Gazebo  
on Smithtown Boulevard  
(right after the 11:30 Mass at HC)**

**Games!**

**Join us for a fun day of food, music and kids' activities! There will be fun for all ages! Free for all parishioners and their families!**

**Remember the fun we had at the 25th?!!!**



**A thousand people were there!**

**Many volunteers will be needed to set up, break down, flip burgers, serve food, supervise and conduct activities, provide entertainment and keep things flowing. There is still lots of planning to do. Whole groups can volunteer to work together. Community service opportunities.**

**Many hands make light work...won't need to work the whole picnic...plenty of time to play.**

**Volunteer sign-up opportunities after Masses April 7/8 & April 14/15.  
Or, if you want to offer help or would like to help sponsor the event,  
leave a message in the parish office.**

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Community Vegetable Garden Volunteers Needed!!!

Spring is here which means we need to get our Community Vegetable Garden ready to be planted! The date is **April 21 from 8 to 12**. We need as many volunteers as possible to help clean up; the more volunteers, the faster we can get it done. The vegetable garden is a great thing for those households served by our Parish Outreach who don't have access to fresh vegetables. So, do something wonderful and join us April 21!

# CONGRATULATIONS!

*Congratulations to Holly Guercio (2nd from left) who was received into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil!*



# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Please mark your calendars for this year's shipwrecked Vacation Bible School at Holy Cross which will be held from Monday, July 9, through Friday, July 13, from 10 am to 1pm.

Registration forms for campers can be found on page 8 of the bulletin or on our web page, [www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org). This is for **campers** only, specifically children who are entering grades K through 5 in the fall of 2018. Please fill out the form and mail in your registration, or stop by the Religious Education office to register.



Inquiries regarding this popular, exciting, summer program can be made at 265-2200 ext. 19.

**\*\* Sign-up registration for helpers and counselors will be held at a later date.**

**Please keep posted via the bulletin.\*\***

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Welcome to Holy Cross Religious Education

The Religious Education Office is planning ahead to the 2018-2019 Formation Year. We need your help so that we can adequately plan to meet the needs of our parish. If you have a child entering **First Grade in September you need to register**. If you have recently moved to our parish you need to register in the parish. Our program is "home based." Classes do not take place at the Church; rather they are held in the homes of our Catechists. Because of this, there are geographical limits on who we are able to accommodate. Please contact our office for more specific information.

- First time registration needs to be done in person at our office.
- Registration needs to be completed by June 15, 2018.
- Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-4:00
- If your child was not baptized at Holy Cross you need to bring a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate.
- For those who are already part of our program, you need to re-register for the upcoming year. Materials will be sent to your home by the end of April and they may be returned by mail. Please note the deadline of June 15, 2018.

A detailed outline of our program is available on-line or at our office. But, there are a few important details to be noted.

- Children must successfully complete each grade level to proceed to the next.
- The Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation require a minimum of two years of preparation.

Most importantly, we need to work together. Faithful attendance at classes and parent workshops is essential. As comprehensive and informative as our program is, this is only one part of your child's faith formation. The greatest thing you can do to nurture your faith and the faith of your child is to regularly be part of our Sunday Eucharist.

The Catechism of the Church states that parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. We are privileged to work with you in this task. We thank you for your cooperation in allowing us to be part of your lives. We look forward to a fruitful year where everyone, young and old, continues to grow in understanding the gift of our faith.





# The Parish of the Holy Cross VBS Registration Form



July 9-13, 2018 10AM-1PM

Please print clearly / one per child

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade entering Sept. 2018 \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish if not Holy Cross: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/guardian emergency contact # / cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Father/guardian emergency contact # / cell # \_\_\_\_\_

**Important: Allergies or other medical conditions: Yes / No (please circle one)**  
**( if "yes" please fill out "Allergy Action Plan" form at time of registration. )**

**\*\*\* Under No circumstances may outside food be brought in.**

Fees:

\$60.00 for 1 camper

\$100.00 for 2 campers

\$140.00 for 3 or more  
campers

May **request one** name for a child to be placed with:

\_\_\_\_\_

This is only a request.

Campers may be placed in same crew OR group.  
Siblings will be placed together if requested.

*Photography release:* I hereby give / do not give permission for my child  
\_\_\_\_\_ to be photographed during the week at VBS.

(must circle one and sign) \_\_\_\_\_

**For Parish use only:**

Payments Made: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello Everyone! Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games and activities? Do you want to build more of an understanding about yourself and your faith?

If you answered "Yes!" to any one of those questions above, then you **MUST** check out the Holy Cross Youth Group! You will be glad you did!

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!

The Holy Cross Youth Group is the perfect opportunity for you to continue to grow in your faith and build relationships with others in the parish. Here are our upcoming youth events and happenings! Take a look:

- **This weekend, on April 8th: Youth Night, 6-8PM! The youth night will take place in the atrium. All are welcome! :-)**
- **Next weekend, on April 15th: The Youth Group will be rocking out at the Parish Concert, starting at 3PM. All are welcome. Come on down and listen to some great music with us!**



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

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Calling all teenagers! Please join us on the Youth Group Spring Retreat for an exciting experience as we explore our personal faith with activities and friends!



**Who?** Any teenager who made their Confirmation (Grade 9 – 12)

**Where?** Sisters of Mercy Villa: 325 Rose Hill Road  
Water Mill, NY

**When?** The retreat will be held on the weekend of  
April 27 - 29!

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact our Coordinator of Youth Ministries,  
Sal Finocchiaro.  
Please call the parish or e- mail him at:  
[HCYouthGroup15@gmail.com](mailto:HCYouthGroup15@gmail.com)

## Thank you from Parish Outreach

During the Easter Season, volunteers have delivered beautiful tulip plants to the homebound of our parish. About 10 visits have been made. Thank you to those who spent special time with these very valued members of our community.

Also, we wish to thank our parishioners for their very generous support of our **Eat Simply** program during the Lenten season. We are constantly touched by your enthusiasm and prayerful spirit of giving. Once again, thank you for helping us to reach out to those in need.

## Joe Merlino's Eagle Scout Car Wash Fundraiser



Please come support Joe and our parish by getting your car washed on **April 21st from 10AM to 2PM** at the Holy Cross parking lot! (The Eagle Scout Project is to build a fence around the Outreach Community Vegetable Garden.) Thank you!

**2018**  
**CATHOLIC MINISTRIES**  
**APPEAL**

*Supporting Dramatic Missionary Growth  
on Long Island and Beyond*

# Hands of Christ's Mercy



**Alleluia! Christ is risen; truly, He is risen! That Easter greeting offers all of us hope, encouragement and perseverance.**

**At this special time of year, let us witness Christ's Resurrection by bringing hope and encouragement to others.**

Let us remember those of our neighbors who are hungry and in need, and consider sharing our many gifts with them.



One way for us to do this is by donating to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**. This Appeal assists our Church in bringing hope and encouragement to those in need in our Long Island community. Last year, *because of you* we were able to serve more than 600,000 people.

Make checks payable to:  
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish Parish of the Holy Cross—176

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

For more information about the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**, please visit <http://www.drvc.org/CMA> or call 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

# PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY



## Career Employment Workshop

All are welcome to join these inclusive,  
non-denominational programs

Once again, the Parish Social Ministry Office of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs is offering our Career Employment Workshops. In the past 24 years, OLQM has helped over 2,000 people develop their job search skills and career paths. Workshops are led by active and retired executives from Management, Human Resources and other fields. They offer practical suggestions and information in a supportive environment as a FREE service of Parish Social Ministry.

The series consists of separate but interrelated sessions, spread over six weeks on Monday evenings, beginning on April 9th. The program is a hands on experience designed to improve skills and build confidence while providing individualized feedback. It assists those currently unemployed, recent graduates, people returning to work or individuals considering a career change.

### WORKSHOP TOPICS

#### **Career Assessment: Identify your Strengths, Talents and Transferable Skills**

What kind of work will really make you happy?

#### **Library Research & Resources**

Learn to identify and research companies needing your skills and experience.

#### **Effective Resumes: Styles & Techniques**

Learn to write targeted cover letters and resumes that are clear and concise.

#### **Basics of Building a Network of Contacts**

How to build a network of people who know you and can introduce you to the right people.

#### **Practical Interviewing Skills**

How to develop your "Brand," learn how to answer the question, "Tell Me About Yourself."

#### **One-on-One Job Search Support**

Opportunity for those who would like individualized discussions with workshop leaders.

All workshops, except the Library Research workshop, will be held at the OLQM Community Room, 53 Prospect Road, Centerport, New York, beginning at 7:00pm.

**Pre-registration is requested to attend!**

To RSVP, please contact Maria Ryan at [mryan@olqmparish.org](mailto:mryan@olqmparish.org) or call 754-9045

**Parish of the Holy Cross  
Nesconset, New York  
September 1, 2017 thru February 28, 2018  
Year to Date Financial Report- Fiscal Year 2017/2018**

Dear Parishioners,

In a spirit of responsible stewardship and fiscal accountability, we are sharing our financial position for your information at the end of each **quarter**. Our new Fiscal Year began with the month of **September 2017**.

We are reporting on what you have provided through your **Stewardship of Treasure** and how we are using your gift. The format follows the categories of Diocesan accounts on which our year-end Financial Reports are based. This report is through the **second quarter of the year**.

We thank you for your support. If you have questions and/or suggestions, we would welcome them. May God continue to bless us all.  
*The Pastoral Team*

**As of February 28, 2018:**

**Assets:**

**Checking A/C:**           \$ 34,019.  
**Unitas Funds:**         \$ 259,987.  
**Money Market:**       \$ 97,116.  
**R.A.M.R.:**               \$ 18,633.

**Liabilities:**

**MAC Loan:**             \$ 25,000.  
**A/C's Payable:**       \$ 3,090.

**For the Year-to-Date Sept. 1, 2017-Feb. 28, 2018**

**9/1/17-2/28/18**

**Revenue:**

**Total Regular Collections:**                               **\$290,912.**  
**Christmas Collection:**                                       **45,660.**  
**R.A.M.R. and Donations for Parking Lot Repair**       **73,017.**  
Total Parish Programs:                                       105,761.  
Total Fund Raising   21,206.  
Total Auxiliary Revenue:                                       84,907.  
Total Second Collections on Behalf of Others:           18,067.  
Total Interest Income:   4,754.

**Total Revenue:**   **\$ 644,284.**

**Expenditures:**

Total Salaries:   \$177,032.  
Total Fringe Benefits:   48,585.  
Quarterly Regional School Assessment:                 42,404.  
Quarterly Diocesan Assessment:                         32,969.  
Total Parish Programs:                                       47,810.  
Total Fund Raising:   13,950.  
Total Printing & Office:                                       18,935.  
Total Auxiliary Expenses:                                   46,600.  
Total Collections Paid on Behalf of Others:           17,058.  
Total Building Utilities and Maintenance:           39,824.  
Total Rectory :   6,829.  
Parking Lot Repair:   155,495.

**Total Expenditures:**   **\$ 614,522.**

**Surplus-9/1/17-2/28/18:**   **\$ 29,763.**

**Highlights of Quarter and YTD:**

- Collections received through Automated Giving are up \$5,900 for the quarter. However, collections received through our regular Sunday collections have decreased \$5,700, therefore total collections are up only \$200 overall for the quarter. However, our Christmas collection increased almost \$8,000 over last year. Year to date we are up almost \$4,000.
- We received a one time gift from a parishioner's estate of \$40,000. (We also received a similar gift last year in the same quarter)
- Our payroll costs are lower this year due to a decrease in staffing in some departments.
- We incurred snow removal expenses of \$9,688 so far this fiscal year as compared to last year of \$6,706.
- Year to Date our surplus is almost \$30,000 vs. \$133,000 last year at this time. However, we did the parking lot repairs in this fiscal year.
- Surplus for the quarter was due to the Christmas collection and donation of \$40,000 in December 2017.

# CASH CALENDAR



Parish of the Holy Cross  
April 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 \$500	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 \$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	<b>\$10 Per Chance 30 Chances to Win \$50 Per Day \$500 Sunday, April 1.</b>				

Cash Calendar, APRIL 2018

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Calendar, APRIL 2018

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Calendar, APRIL 2018

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Cash Calendar, APRIL 2018

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Cash Calendar, APRIL 2018

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PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Cash Calendar, APRIL 2018

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_


# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Saturday, April 7th</b>	<b>3:45-4:45PM</b>
• HOLY HOUR	Worship Area
<b>Sunday, April 8th</b>	<b>After 9:30 Mass</b>
• ANOINTING OF THE SICK	Worship Area
• DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET PRAYER 12:45PM	Wor.Ar.
• BAPTISMS	2PM Worship Area
• CONCERT REHEARSAL	3PM Worship Area
• YOUTH NIGHT	6-8PM Atrium
<b>Monday, April 9th</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
• SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES	Atrium
• LEVEL 2 CATECHIST MTG.	7PM Conference Rm.
• PICNIC PLANNING COMMITTEE	Fr. Joe Room
• DANCE COMMITTEE	7:30PM Atrium
<b>Tuesday, April 10th</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• ALPHA	6:30PM FJ Rm./Atr.
<b>Wednesday, April 11th</b>	<b>7:30 PM</b>
• TRAVEL CLUB PICTURE PARTY	Atrium
<b>Thursday, April 12th</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
• MOMS' GROUP	Sacristy
• MYSTAGOGY	7PM Conference Rm.
<b>Saturday, April 14th</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
• BASKET RAFFLE SALES	Atrium
<b>Sunday, April 15th</b>	<b>All Masses</b>
• BASKET RAFFLE SALES	Atrium
• PARISH CONCERT	3PM Wor.Ar./Atr.

# SPECIAL COLLECTION

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

# EASTER FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF...



LUCIA VITALE TRAINO  
 SARA & JAMES CONNOR  
 MULLIGAN-FOLEY FAMILY  
 JOSEPH & EVA CUOLLO  
 DONALD STEVENSON  
 JEAN LAMURA

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



**Freedom of  
Worship  
Vs  
Freedom of  
Religion**

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

“Freedom of worship” means religious beliefs need to go “in the closet” – or into the four walls of a home or house of worship - and that faith should be a private affair, to be relegated to personal activities or weekend worship services.

“Freedom of religion” means religious believers can say and do as their conscience dictates in the public square. It includes freedom of worship but is also the right to evangelize, change their religion, have schools and charitable institutions, and conduct their jobs and businesses according to their conscience and religious beliefs.

The Founders were clear, and the Bill of Rights makes it foundational to our Constitution, that the government should not infringe on the free exercise of religion. Nevertheless, in recent years Americans have faced attempts to water down this robust understanding of religious freedom to a mere “freedom of worship.”

**“Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” First Amendment to the Bill of Rights**



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(631) 361-7500

**BOHEMIA**  
1320 Lakeland Avenue  
(631) 589-1500

**HOLBROOK**  
825 Main Street  
(631) 981-7500

**PORT JEFFERSON STATION**  
523 Route 112  
(631) 473-3800

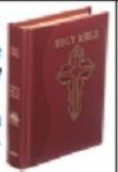
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