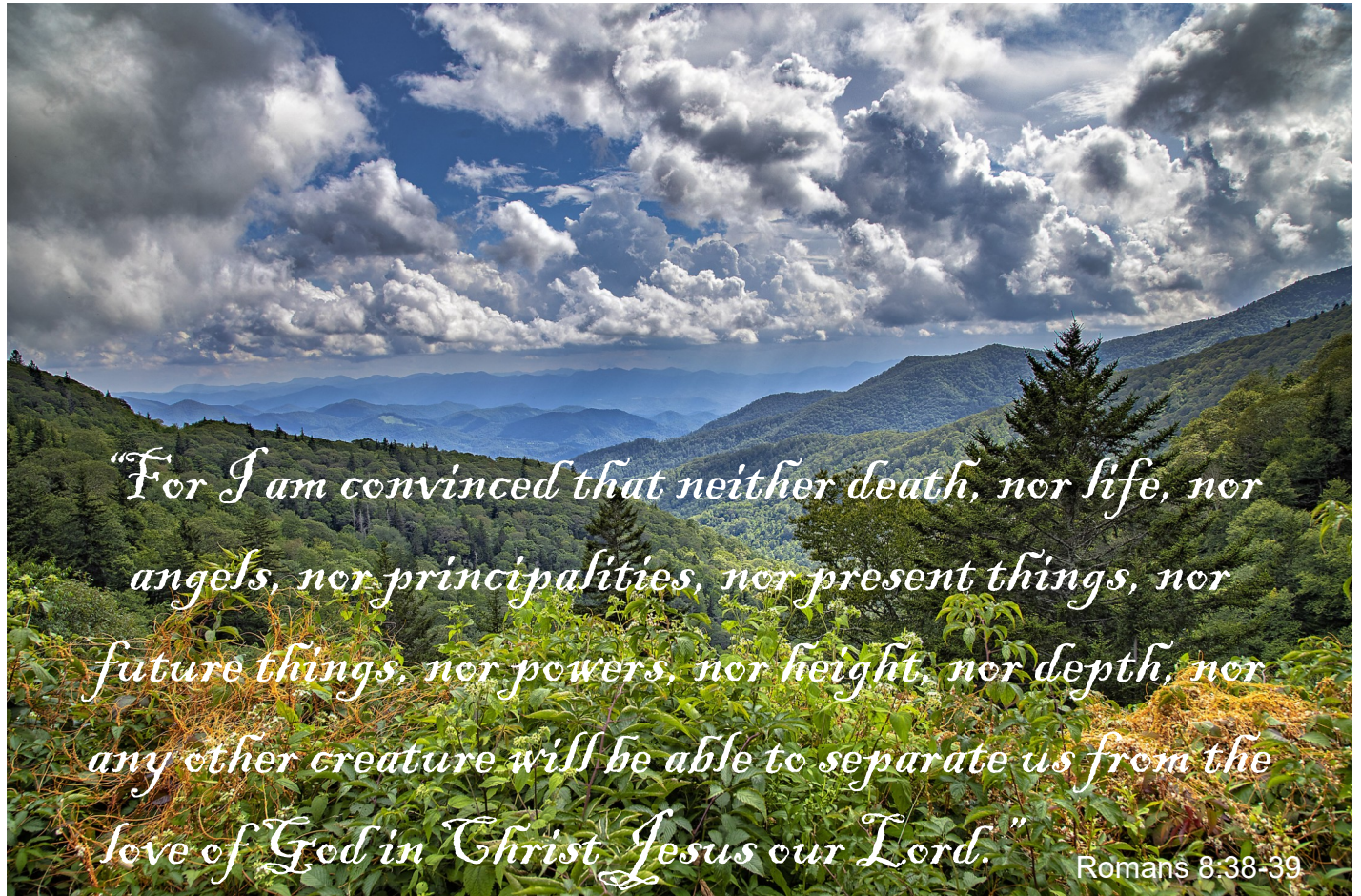


The Parish of the Holy Cross

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!

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 2, 2020

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 AM,

Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

(The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are live streamed on Facebook.)

We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
Pastor, ext.115

Deacon Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister, ext.119

Mrs. Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Michele Hahn
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112
Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. MaryAnne McCulloch, ext.113
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano
Business Manager, ext.110

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein
Youth Minister

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111
Religious Education Secretary
(hcreled@optonline.net)

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

Mr. Roberto Maza
Mr. Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Remembering Our Sick

Please pray for those in our parish who are sick, their families and caregivers:

Patricia Becker	George V. Daly
Francesco DiMartino	Ann Egan
Sienna Fricke	Phil Graziose
Bob Grieco	Chuck Madden
Joseph Santamaria	Marlene Starr
Judy Viskupic	

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 x122 or email to pothc@optonline.net.

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of August 2nd, 9AM Mass

Mon. Margaret Cornell
Tue. Damien Pickel
Wed. Thomas G. Brophy
Thu. Joan Stahley

Saturday, August 8th, 5 PM Mass

Henri-Robert Lamarque, Damien Pickel

Sunday, August 9th, 19th Sun. in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM Al Hornberger, Greg Wirth, Rose Schreiber
11:30 AM Rose Marinelli

Scripture Readings for August 9, 2020



+ 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13
+ Romans 9:1-5
+ Matthew 14:22-33

Parish Office Summer Hours

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM



Gratitude

by Father Michael

This article is being written (over a week ago) just before I take a few days off. I don't have plans to do anything dramatic. I look forward to a few quiet days at the house free from the immediate needs and responsibilities of the daily routine. Removing debris from the fishpond and power washing my patio are likely going to be the highlights of the week.

When I made the announcement that I was taking some time last Thursday at the morning Mass, the response was applause. I was touched by that. I'm assuming that the underlying sentiment was not, *Thank heavens, now we can get a break from you*. In different ways, many people have been saying to me, "We are worried about you, you need to take a break." Yes, there is a part of me that is exhausted. But I am not alone; most folks are feeling exhaustion these days. Those who are working, those who are home, and those who are parents, are all pooped. There is a physical exhaustion that comes from day after day of work. But there is also an emotional exhaustion that comes from all we have faced and all that is still happening. I realize I am blessed to be able to shift gears for a few days. For many people, that is not an option.

As I head off, I do so with a tremendous sense of gratitude. I am blessed in so many ways. I am deeply grateful for the ways in which parishioners have reached out to me offering encouragement, support, and thanks. I have tried sending a few thank you notes here and there, but I know there are more people that I have missed than I have remembered. I'm enormously grateful for those of you in the position to continue to financially support the parish. Of the many issues on my plate, financial concern for the parish is not a pressing need. Sometime down the road we may need to start counting pennies, but not yet because of your generosity.

I am grateful that I have been given the opportunity to minister at Holy Cross during this crisis. As demanding as it has been, it has been fulfilling and energizing. To know that I offer a piece of the equation in helping to keep people's lives balanced is a privilege. To trust that God's Spirit is at work through my ministry is humbling.

Onward we all go. We continue to seek the Lord's guidance and wisdom. We pray for resolutions for the many questions before us. But we also take great strength and comfort in the people with whom we make the journey. I'm happy to be part of your journey and grateful that you are part of mine.

PARISH NEWS



Banns of Marriage-Third Time

*Kristy Cosgrove & Michael Nocerino
Danielle Todesco & Brandon Hegarty*



*Holy Cross
welcomes
these children
Baptized in July*

**Santino Michele Castronovo
Blake Kamryn Granger
Carmine Robert-James Perrone
Jameson Lucas Ragone
Jonathan Steven Ruocco
Tessa Eve Salvatico
Tucker Anthony Sitar**



Pray for Our Military

PFC Anna Brady
Cpl. Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
SA Anthony J. DeNicola
FC2 Lane Dyar
Brandon Ferrara
SSG Daniel Frost
MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA
WO Christopher Kaminsky
Sgt. Michael J. Knipper, USMC
SSGT Ryan Mauldin
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
Lt. Ryan Montvydas
IT1 Jason Mulderig
LCpl. Michael Palagonia, USMC

We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service. We will continue to pray for them through 2020. Please let us know at any time during 2020 if their service is finished, their title has changed, or you would like continued prayers through 2021. May God bless all who serve our nation. Pray for Peace!

Did you lose a loved one to the Coronavirus?

Would you like to participate in a study regarding the power of faith in response to this kind of loss? If you think this might be a helpful or healing experience for you, please contact parishioner Regina Dawson at 631-656-9212 or rdson@optonline.net .

Congratulations!

The Parish of the Holy Cross rejoices with **Samantha Stephens** who celebrates the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist this weekend, and is now fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Samantha, may the blessings of this special day be with you always.



Samantha Stephens



We pray for the following parishioners whose funerals were celebrated at Holy Cross in July:

**Elizabeth Graziose
Angelo LaSala
Edward Lloyd
Theresa Pellechi
Sebastian Perrone
Carmine Prinzo
Gregory Wirth**

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

PARISH OUTREACH

School Supplies Program 2020

Due to the Coronavirus situation, the need for social distancing and our concern for the safety of our project volunteers, we will not be collecting School Supplies this year. We will be supplying our Outreach parents with gift cards to shop for the supplies their children will need and to help in the purchase of sneakers.

We hope you can support this effort by making a monetary donation to help us meet this need. Checks made out to *Holy Cross Outreach* can be put in a plain envelope and marked for "School Supplies." These donations may be dropped in our School House in the Atrium or mailed directly to Parish Outreach at 95 Nichols Road, Nesconset, NY 11767.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to reach out to those struggling to make ends meet in this very difficult time.

WE ENCOURAGE ANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE IN NEED OF HELP WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO CALL PARISH OUTREACH AT 631-265-2200 ext. 113.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Welcome to Holy Cross Religious Education

The Religious Education Office is planning ahead to the 2020-2021 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. Due to Covid-19, our program will be a mix of online and “home based” learning, depending on CDC guidelines. Please contact our office for more specific information.

- Religious Education classes will begin the week of October 19th, 2020.
- First time registration can be done online at www.pothc.org . Go to forms.
- Registration needs to be completed by August 15, 2020.
- Summer Office Hours: Monday – Friday 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-2:30
- If your child was not baptized at Holy Cross you need to send us a copy of your child’s Baptism Certificate. Please email it to hcreled@optonline.net .
- For those who are already part of our program, you need to re-register for the upcoming year. Please note that textbooks will not be distributed to your child without a registration form.

A detailed outline of our program is available online or at our office. However, 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 - whether in person or viewing our 11:30 AM live streamed Mass.



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.

LITURGY BYTES

Sacraments of Healing



The two Sacraments of healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick) have gone through a renewal over the years, in addition to a name change for both Sacraments. This week we will consider the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As most of us know, Reconciliation has had a few names: Penance and Confession, being the names familiar to most people. Unfortunately, in recent times it is not a Sacrament that is celebrated very much. We could debate that statement for hours, I am sure, about why this is the case.

The Catechism tells us that through this Sacrament, we are restored to God's grace and joined with God in an intimate friendship. (n.1468) We also learn from the Catechism that we are reconciled to the Church and the community of believers, which we are bonded to through baptism. "This reconciliation with God leads to other reconciliations, which repair the other breaches caused by sin. The forgiven penitent is reconciled with himself (herself) in his (her) innermost being, where he (she) regains his (her) innermost truth. He (she) is reconciled with his (her) brethren (brothers/sisters) whom he (she) has in some way offended and wounded. He (she) is reconciled with the Church...with all creation." (n. 1469) The Sacrament of Reconciliation encompasses multiple dimensions of realization of sin, sorrow, contrition, forgiveness and reconciliation, but it begins and ends with relationship.

Here is a story about a friend who has many friends, besides family members who live all around our country. This friend of mine has many ways to keep these relationships growing, and vacations are his way to do that! He spends his yearly vacations visiting those he cares about.

Continued on Next Page

LITURGY BYTES *continued*

However, when my friend returns home, there is always an adjustment period to return to his regular everyday life. Because he lives alone, he has often shared the fact about this empty feeling when he returns from one of his “visits.” There is an adjustment period to the quiet after the noises experienced in the homes of his family and friends, especially those with children. He mentions the feelings of loneliness until he returns to work and picks up again, resuming his regular routine, being with his colleagues and friends at Church. He experiences this longing because he has experienced being close to the people he loves and who love him.

Now what does this have to do with sin and reconciliation? What is separating my friend from his loved ones is distance. If there were a breach in the relationship, a betrayal, a wrong, if somehow the relationship needed to be righted because of an intentional act or an intentional omission, the absence and longing would take on a new character. When a relationship is broken or impaired, we feel alienation and estrangement. Getting back to the ordinary routine does not help the break; only forgiveness and reconciliation do. My friend only struggled with reentry, but it is an analogy that, even with much imperfection, is parallel to the experience of sin. At its heart, sin brings isolation and alienation from God, from those whom we love, from our community, even from creation. Like my friend, who only can identify absence because he has experienced loving presence, we experience the alienation that sin brings because we already know the intimacy of the friendship God continually offers us. Perhaps reflecting on how we distance ourselves from God, when God is always by our side, causing the feeling of “absence” in our hearts like my friend in the story, will hit home this week and encourage us to re-connect with our God through this beautiful Sacrament of God’s love and mercy.

Have a safe, healthy, and blessed week! ~~~~~ *Michele Hahn*