

# 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!



*Jesus Heals*

*“Then will the eyes of the blind  
be opened,  
the ears of the deaf  
be cleared;  
then will the lame  
leap like a stag,  
then the tongue of the mute  
will sing.”*

Isaiah 35:5-6

## Come and pray with us!

### 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 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 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

Deacon Ralph Rivera  
Pastoral Minister

Ms. Kathleen Reid  
Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Tricia Clarke  
Business Manager

Mrs. Mary Anne Mc Culloch  
Ms. Patricia Gyscek  
Co-Coordinators of Parish Outreach

Mr. Brian Reich  
Director of Music Ministry

Mrs. Judith Pickel  
Pastoral Associate

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



#### September 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 September 9th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Genevieve Fasano  
**Tue.** Mary Shipman  
**Wed.** Matt Akuntius & Tom Kearnes  
**Thu.** Jane Novotny  
**Fri.** People of the Parish

#### Saturday, September 15th, 5 PM Mass

Nancy Gallagher, Bobby Kieley, Maryann Follo,  
Isabella Burton, Paula D'Amora

#### Sunday, Sept. 16th, 24th Sun. in Ordinary Time

**8:00 AM** People of the Parish  
**9:30 AM** Christopher Cotter, Jack Duman,  
Frank Ranieri  
**11:30 AM** Alice Shea

### Remembering Our Sick

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

**Maria Conte**                      **Nicole Digraziano**  
**Andrew Gallo**                   **Denise Lamarque**  
**Maryann League**               **Linda Lebrun**  
**Paul Malley**                      **Connie & Fred Polik**

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 September 16, 2018*



+ *Isaiah 50:4-9*  
+ *James 2:14-18*  
+ *Mark 8:27-35*

# A New Fiscal Year

*by Father Michael*

The fiscal year for the Church follows an academic calendar. So, our new fiscal year began on September 1st. It worked out perfectly that we were able to pay off our debt before we closed the books on last year. Holy Cross continues to be blessed in that we have a balanced budget and a few dollars tucked away in the bank and investments. Many parishes struggle with finances. Thank you to all who support us regularly and generously. A year end financial statement will appear in the bulletin in the coming weeks.

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross is celebrated on September 14th. This is the closest thing we have to a feast day. Most parishes are named after a saint or a title for Mary that is commemorated on a specific date. This year the day falls on a Friday. Normally, we don't have daily Mass on Friday mornings, but there will be one on September 14th at 9:00 AM to celebrate this day.

As part of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration we welcome Sr. Pat Duffy to Holy Cross. She will be with us next Sunday afternoon at 3:00 PM. Those of you who have heard Sr. Pat know that her insights and spirituality are both profound but down to earth. She has the ability to identify the Spirit at work in our lives, often in the midst of our human folly. She is a gifted speaker, and we look forward to hearing her holy words next weekend.

Another part of our Anniversary celebration is our parish dinner dance. It is scheduled for Friday, October 19th. It was originally booked at the Meadow Club in Port Jefferson. Unfortunately, they had a major fire there a few months back. The good news is they were able to relocate our event to the Miller Place Inn (not the Milleridge Inn in Hicksville). The bad news is the new venue does not have the same seating capacity as the original. There are still about 50 seats available, but if there is a last minute rush we may have to announce we are sold out. If you plan on being part of this celebration, don't wait until the last minute to buy tickets.

If you do any plantings around your home during the upcoming days of autumn, you can look forward to our Fall Youth Group Plant Sale. The sale will be taking place after all Masses next weekend. We appreciate your support of our Youth Ministry program.

Although we are still enjoying summer, I had to submit to our offertory envelope company this week, my letter with my yuletide greeting for the Christmas mailing. It's hard to think of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" when "Margaritaville" is still playing on the radio.

**We will have a 9AM Mass on Friday, Sept. 14th, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.**

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello everyone! Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games? 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 are making your Confirmation in a couple of weeks, 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! Take a look:

**September 15 - 16: Youth Group Plant Sale!** See below for additional information.

**Sunday, September 23: The Youth Group will be having an 11:30AM Youth Mass with the Core Band! Then, the YG will be hosting a YG Kickoff Event from 12:30 - 3PM! Lunch will be served. All are welcome to have a wonderful time 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 Group Fall Plant Sale!

**What?** The Youth Group will be selling Mums, Mum baskets, Mum planters, Montauk daisies, Ornamental cabbage, Redbor kale and our famous, Fall gardens!

**When?** Next weekend, September 15th-16th, after all the Masses!

**Where?** The Atrium!

**Why?** Come buy a beautiful plant to kick off the colorful Fall season. Come and support the Holy Cross Youth Group in all upcoming events and Fall Retreat. :-)

**Together Leading our Youth closer to Christ!**



# GUEST SPEAKER - SR. PAT DUFFY!

**We Hold a Treasure - Sunday, September 16th, at 3PM!**



We celebrate anniversaries so we can remember the dream and the hope that was with us when we began an adventure. Holy Cross Parish Community was a dream filled with hope for the followers of Jesus. Today we stand in that dream and celebrate the many people who have formed and sustained this community.

We also renew our commitment as followers of Jesus today. In our turbulent times, this faith community is a strength for the journey and a place of peace to sustain us through the challenges each of us faces in our daily living. Join us as we remember and celebrate the love of God that sustains us and the community that surrounds us.

## ATTENTION HOLY CROSS VOLUNTEERS

VIRTUS Training, **Protecting God's Children for Adults**, will be offered at Holy Cross on:

**Thursday, September 27, 2018, 6:30 – 9:00 PM**

As you know, all employees and volunteers are required by the Diocese to attend one of these sessions. (Those who have already attended VIRTUS are not required to go again.) If you have not yet taken VIRTUS training, **please register on-line right away**, as the number of participants is limited to 20.

To register, go to [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), click on the yellow tab labeled "Registration," and follow the directions. The name of our *organization* is Diocese of Rockville Centre. Our *center* is Holy Cross RCC (Nesconset).

If you have any questions, or need help with the registration, please call Jude at 631-265-2200 x16.

## CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Children's Liturgy of the Word resumes at the 11:30 Mass this Sunday, September 9th, in the Fr. Joe Room. Children's Liturgy, for children in grades K-3, is held every Sunday from September to May, except for holiday weekends. We are looking for additional leaders and helpers for this fall. Time commitment is dependent on the number of leaders and helpers we have. If you are over 18 and would be interested in becoming a leader or are in grades 4 through 12 and would be interested in becoming a helper, please consider joining this ministry. Community service hours and training are available. Please contact **Karyn at 631-648-3594** for more information.



# LAST CHANCE FOR TICKETS!

Due to a fire at the Meadow Club in Port Jefferson Station, the Dinner Dance has a new venue.  
The date and time are the same, but the location has changed!  
Come join us. We'd love to see you there!

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

*When:* Friday, October 19, 2018

*Where:* Miller Place Inn  
195 North Country Road, Miller Place

*Time:* 7 - 11 PM



Thank you for your support. We look forward to our Anniversary Dinner Dance on October 19th.

We will be selling tickets after all of the Masses during the month of September. Last chance to buy tickets will be the last weekend of September (unless we sell out sooner). Due to the change in venue, we only have 50 more tickets to sell!

Just a reminder, if you bought tickets for someone who is not a parishioner, please advise them of the new venue.

Directions to **Miller Place Inn** are available at the ticket table after Mass.

# PARISH OUTREACH



Archbishop Oscar Romero, a hero of social justice, was martyred due to his vocal criticism of the treatment of the poor and disenfranchised in his native country of El Salvador.

Blessed Oscar Romero will be canonized by Pope Francis on October 14, 2018. We are planning an event to celebrate and honor his memory on the evening of October 15th. Watch for details to follow.

## SOMETHING NEW AT HOLY CROSS!

### Coffee & Conversation

Do you enjoy learning more about your faith,  
and sharing your questions and thoughts with others?

Would you like to grow in your relationship with God, and with one another?

Then, "**Coffee & Conversation**" on the **third Tuesday** of each month,  
from **7:00 – 8:30 PM**, is for you!

Our evening consists of 3 parts:

- coffee (or tea!) and dessert,
- a short DVD on a topic of life and faith,
- small group discussion.



Please join us for our first evening on **September 18**, at **7:00 PM** in the atrium. Space is limited, so please fill in the tear-off below and drop it in the collection basket or at the parish office. If you have any questions, please call Jude Pickel at 631-265-2200 extension 16.

I would like to participate in "*Coffee & Conversation*" on September 18:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## A Friendly Reminder from Religious Education

Registration for our 2018-2019 Religious Education Program is past due. If you would like to register your child in our Religious Education program, please do so as soon as possible. Also, we are always in need of Catechists. If you think God is calling you to the ministry of faith formation, please call the Religious Education Office ASAP! Thank you for considering sharing your faith with the children and young people of our parish.



## RCIA

***Are you seeking Baptism? Are you a baptized Catholic who never celebrated First Communion and Confirmation? Have you been baptized in another Christian faith and now desire to become Catholic?***

If your answer is “YES” to any of these questions, we want to hear from you. The Church gives us a beautiful process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for those who seek to become fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This year’s RCIA will be starting soon. If you’re interested and would like additional information, please contact Jude Pickel at 631-265-2200 x16.



## ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!

### Morning Mass on Sept. 19th

On Wednesday, September 19th, Holy Cross will be celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for our Religious Education students. Because of this, morning Mass will be held at 8AM on that day.

## SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This weekend at the offertory we will also be collecting for the **Catholic University of America**.

Next weekend we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Thank you for your support of these important collections!



# PARISH OUTREACH

## Heifer Corner

During these hot summer months, water is a very special and important part of our lives. We water our lawns and flowers to keep them growing beautifully; we splash around in our backyard swimming pools; we enjoy tall glasses of refreshing ice cold water; we enjoy long cool showers after a day's work or play.

Often, we may take our ready access to water for granted. As we enjoy the benefits of readily available clean water this summer, let's take a moment to remember that currently **1.2 billion** people live in areas with insufficient and/or polluted water.

What can we do to help alleviate this situation? Exactly what we have been doing - adding our quarters to *Kevin Bacon* on the weekends when we come to Mass. **Once again, those quarters have added up, and we have decided to donate \$550 to Heifer International to purchase the Gift of Clean Water and to purchase a Water Buffalo.**

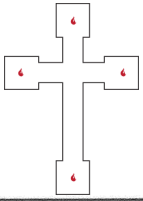
The **Gift of Clean Water** is devoted to providing communities with clean, healthy water for daily living. In the impoverished communities where Heifer is working, many of the homes lack running water, and some families do not even have a well nearby. Instead, they must spend each day fetching water. This is often a chore left to the children, especially girls, leaving no time for school. This gift will help families to install treadle pumps for better access to clean water, teach communities about managing water resources and improve health by highlighting the importance of proper sanitation.



The **Water Buffalo** provides a family in need with milk that can transform malnourished children. Plus, families with water buffalos can often plant four times more crops when they can sow fields in days that once took weeks by hand. This all adds up to better nutrition and more income for struggling families to put toward clothing, medicines and education. As a farmer in Thailand stated: "If I die, my family will weep for me, if my buffalo dies, my family will starve."

Our parish commitment to Heifer through the quarters dropped in our special pig, *Kevin Bacon*, has made a tremendous difference in poor communities all across the globe. Thanks so much for your continuing support of this effort.

# CASH CALENDAR



## Parish of the Holy Cross September 2018

September 14th is the  
Exaltation of the  
Holy Cross

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						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	29 \$50
30 \$50	\$ 10 Per Chance; 30 Chances to Win; \$50 Per Day; \$500 on September 14					

Cash Calendar, SEPTEMBER 2018

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# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Saturday, September 8th</b>	<b>10AM &amp; 3:30PM</b>
• LEVEL 8 RECONCILIATION	Worship Area
<b>Sunday, September 9th</b>	<b>1 PM</b>
• BAPTISMS	Worship Area
<b>Monday, September 10th</b>	<b>7 PM</b>
• LEV. 7 CATECHIST/PARENT/STUDENT MTG.	Wor. Ar.
<b>Tuesday, September 11th</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL	7PM Worship Area
<b>Wednesday, September 12th</b>	<b>11:30AM-2:30PM</b>
• SENIORS	Atrium
• CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL	7PM Worship Area
<b>Thursday, September 13th</b>	<b>1 PM</b>
• MOMS' GROUP	Sacristy
• CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL	7PM Worship Area
<b>Friday, September 14th</b>	<b>9 AM</b>
• MASS ( <i>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</i> )	Chapel
<b>Saturday, September 15th</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
• WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT	Fr. Joe Room
• YOUTH GROUP PLANT SALE	5PM Atrium
<b>Sunday, September 16th</b>	<b>All Masses</b>
• YOUTH GROUP PLANT SALE	Atrium
• GUEST SPEAKER - SR. PAT DUFFY 3PM	Worship Area

# DIocese of Rockville Centre



## Golden Wedding Liturgy

This fall, couples that have been married fifty years or more will be honored at a liturgy on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at the Church of Christ the King in Commack. Mass will begin at 2:30 PM. Registration forms and complete instructions can be obtained at your Parish Office. Registration must be received at the DRVC Office of Worship by October 12th.

If you have any questions, please call 516-678-5800 ext. 207.

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



**SCHOOL IS OPEN!  
AND STUDENTS MAY  
EXPRESS THEIR FAITH!**

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

Many Americans incorrectly believe that any mention of God by students is forbidden. Why do Americans believe this and how did we get here?

School-sponsored prayer was removed from the public education system through a number of court cases over several decades. In a 1963 case, the Supreme Court ruled that school-sponsored prayer and/or Bible reading by a representative of the State (teacher, etc.) was a violation of the establishment clause of the First Amendment. Justice Hugo Black, writing for the majority said, "It is no part of the business of government to compose official prayers. . ." **This ruling did not stop school prayer or Bible reading completely since voluntary student prayer was still permitted.**

The widespread misinterpretation of the Supreme Court decision was caused by the news coverage and overly cautious school boards. Justice Tom Clark criticized media coverage, insisting the public was wrong to think the court had outlawed religious observance in public. Prof. Deckman of the Public Religious Research Institute accused school boards of paranoia about religious expression.

For over fifty years, the misunderstanding and misrepresentation of the 1963 Supreme Court ruling has led to countless cases that deny our children their First Amendment rights.

**SEE: "It's OK to Pray," a 9-minute video on [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)**





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