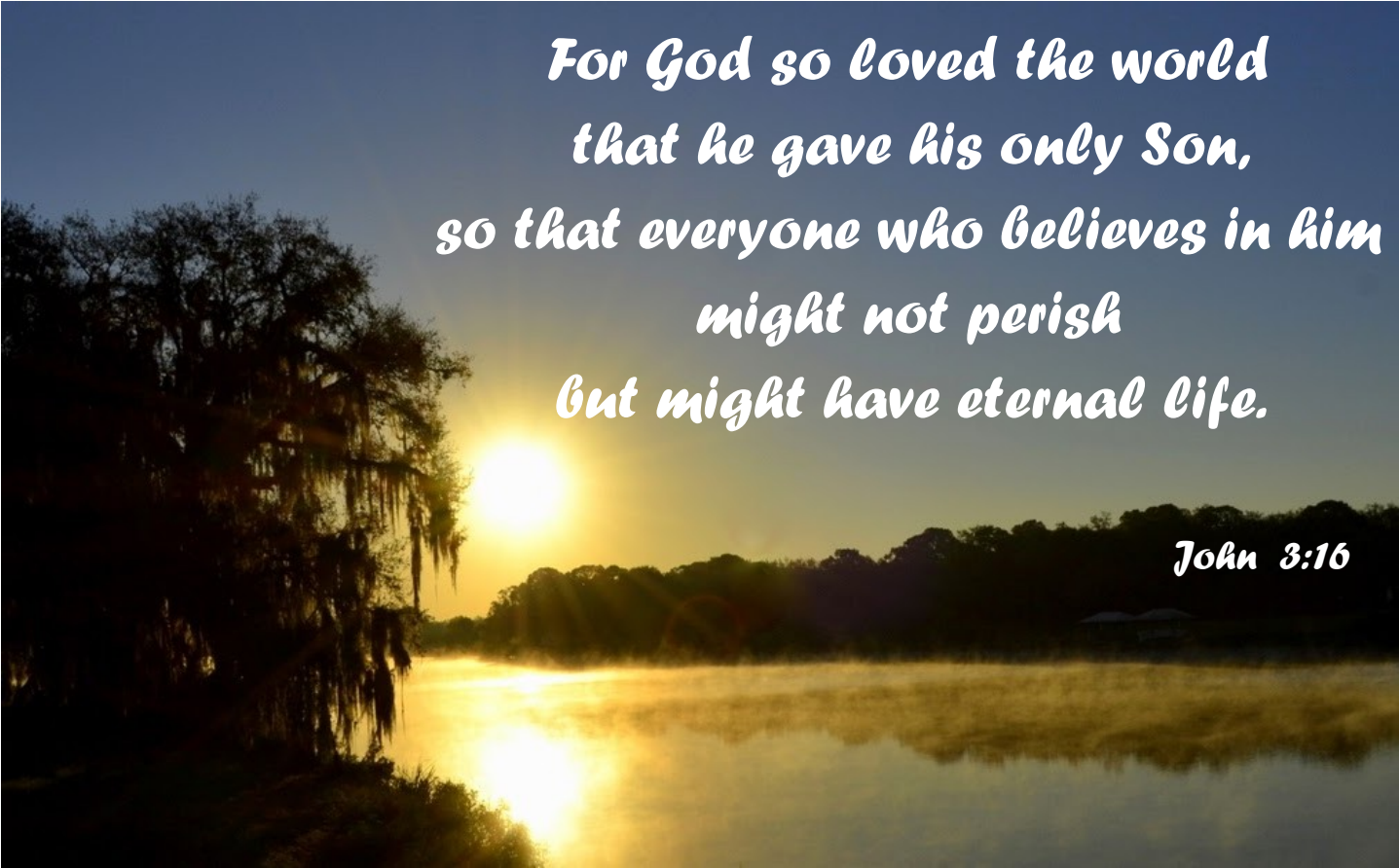


The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

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LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



*For God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish
but might have eternal life.*

John 3:16

Come and pray with us!

Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 11, 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)

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Pastor

Ms. Kathleen Reid
Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Mary Anne Mc Culloch
Ms. Patricia Gyscek
Co-Coordiators 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

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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



March 17th/18th

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

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of March 11th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Ted Dreger (living)
Tue. Dr. Patricia Tietjen (living)
Wed. Catherine Holzmann
Thu. Luke Brennan

Saturday, March 17th, 5 PM Mass

James Eng, Patti Gauthier, Helen Sarkowicz,
Anthony Pagano

Sunday, March 18th, Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Dave Scarantino
9:30 AM Dora Piccininni, Phil DeNobrega,
Maryellen Meehan, Frank Giambanco,
Veronica Costa
11:30 AM People of the Parish

Remembering Our Sick

*Almighty and Eternal God, You are the
everlasting health of those who believe in You...*

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 March 18, 2018



+ *Jeremiah 31:31-34*
+ *Hebrews 5:7-9*
+ *John 12:20-33*

Light and Darkness

by Father Michael

This week's gospel passage uses the image of light and darkness. This is a powerful image to build upon for today's reflection.

It would seem logical that people would seek a place of light rather than darkness. But, in St. John's gospel the opposite is said, "... people preferred darkness to light." At first glance we may reject that idea, but in fact, John accurately identifies a pattern which may be part of how we live.

In different ways, we each have our own "comfort zones." They are places we have found in our relationships, in our work, in our prayer, and throughout our lives. Comfort zones allow us to avoid conflict and to maintain a nonthreatening pattern. While we might prefer to camp out in these places forever, the authentic spiritual journey prompts us to move beyond to a place where God can speak truth, even if it is unsettling.

Lent calls us to examine our life and to determine if there are any corners of life, that are in fact filled with darkness, that we have either actively or passively come to accept. Why would we do such a thing? Because, the thought of moving towards light is too threatening; it may require us to grapple with our own failings or weaknesses. It may demand we accept guidance from others which our pride rejects. It may mean coming closer to God, whose embrace we may feel too unworthy to receive.

God abundantly understands our situation. God is accepting and patient. It is often, we who struggle with these battles of imperfection. When we are spiritually awake there is an awareness of this balance between light and darkness. We admit there is an invitation from God to grow, to do more, to move towards true light.

God has a remarkable way of reminding us of this balance between light and darkness; it is called our shadow. Our shadow can be symbolic of sin, fear, doubt, self hatred, etc. But, there can be a practical aspect as well. At any given moment, we can go outside and be reminded of this paradox by the sun. If it is high noon, our shadow is barely noticeable. But, if the sun is low in the sky our shadow can become disproportionately large. It is not meant to make us feel bad about ourselves, but rather highlight the delicate balance of our imperfection in contrast to the mercy, compassion and acceptance of God.

Think about the areas of your life where there may be darkness. Could this be the time Jesus calls you to seek His light that will bring life? We will be given the strength to grow and allow our lives to be transformed in our loving God.

This Tuesday Evening at 7:00 we will have a Prayer Service based upon the theme of "Light and Darkness." The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available. Please join us.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

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). Here are some activities you might like to consider this Lent:

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

Divine Mercy in the Chapel: Friday, March 16th, 3:00 PM. A time to reflect on the mercy of God.

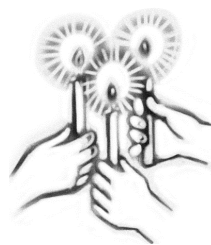
Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction: Friday, March 16th, 4:00 PM. Come and sit in the presence of Christ.

Stations of the Cross Video: Friday, March 16th, 6:00 PM. Meditate on the passion and death of Jesus.

Tenebrae: Friday, March 23rd, 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 26th, 3:00 – 5:00, and 5:30 – 8:00 PM. Opportunities to celebrate the sacrament with Fr. Michael.

Tenebrae Service



Tenebrae is a liturgical service of light to darkness, traditionally celebrated during Lent. It is a presentation of the Passion of Jesus Christ through seven Scripture readings, meditations and song. It involves our Choir, Readers and the Congregation.

We encourage all parishioners to join us for our Tenebrae Service on **Friday, March 23rd, at 7:30 PM** as we prepare our hearts and minds for the great gift of Holy Week to follow.

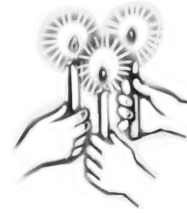
We celebrate Girl Scout Sunday this weekend at the 9:30 Mass!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

Easter 2018

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Friday, March 23, 2018 7:30 PM



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Saturday, March 24th: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM

*Monday, March 26th: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM &
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM*

Good Friday, March 30th: following 9:00 AM Morning Prayer (up to 10:00 AM)
Holy Saturday, March 31st: following 9:00 AM Morning Prayer (up to 10:00 AM)



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SUNDAY 2018

PALM SUNDAY MARCH 25, 2018

Saturday 3/24/18: 5:00 PM Mass

*Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM,
11:00 AM & 12:30 PM*

← please note Mass times

HOLY THURSDAY MARCH 29, 2018

Morning Prayer - 9:00 AM

Children's Service - 5:00 PM

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 8:00 PM

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 PM

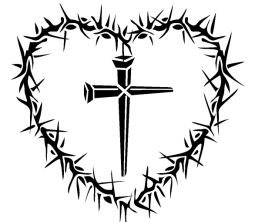
GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 30, 2018

Morning Prayer - 9:00 AM

Children's Service - 12:00 Noon

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

with Veneration of the Cross - 3:00 PM



HOLY SATURDAY MARCH 31, 2018

Morning Prayer - 9:00 AM

Solemn Easter Vigil - 8:00 PM

NO AFTERNOON CONFESSIONS OR 5:00 PM MASS
ON HOLY SATURDAY



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 1, 2018

Masses: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM & 12:30 PM

← please note Mass times

PARISH NEWS

Holy Cross Parish Picnic

Save the Date!!!

Sunday, June 10th

1PM - 5PM

at the Nesconset Gazebo

(right after the 11:30 Mass at HC)



Special Collection

This weekend at the offertory we will also be collecting for **Catholic Relief Services**. CRS works with organizations around the world to help poor and vulnerable people overcome emergencies, earn a living through agriculture, and access affordable health care. Thank you for your support!

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus are having their Membership Drive **next weekend** after all the Masses. Please be sure to stop by the table in the atrium after Mass to find out all the wonderful things our Blessed Sacrament Council Knights of Columbus are doing and how you can become a part of it!



Alpha is coming - really!!

Alpha is an opportunity for adults to explore life and faith in a friendly, open, and informal atmosphere, using 3 key elements: food, information, and discussion.

Beginning on April 10, 2018, *Alpha* will be here at Holy Cross.

For 10 weeks, we will gather at 6:30PM, share a light meal, watch an informative DVD, and engage in small group discussion.

While we would love to see everyone at *Alpha*, space limits us to just 30 participants, so please register right away.

Questions? Call Jude at (631) 265-2200x16



Please fill in and return to the Parish Office (*We need to know how much food to prepare!*):

I am looking forward to participating in *Alpha*:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hi 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, then you **MUST** check out the Holy Cross Youth Group! You will be glad you did!

If you made your Confirmation, then come on down with a friend and check out the wonderful opportunities the Youth Group has for you! We would love to see you!

The YG had a wonderful trip into NYC for their Youth Sandwich Drive last weekend! We all had a fruitful experience putting our faith into action by giving out brown paper bag lunches to individuals who were in need. This was an amazing experience that put the true meaning of Lent into perspective for all of us. Here are some group photos of the YG on their trip.



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, March 11th, we have a Youth Night, 6 - 8PM. All are welcome! Please bring a friend!
- Next weekend, March 18th, we have another Youth Night, 6 - 8PM.

Continued on next page



YOUTH MINISTRY

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.

PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply Ideas

Here are some ideas to consider using for your family's participation in our Eat Simply program.

- If you gave up sweets for Lent, donate the money saved so that we can purchase cookies and snacks for a family.
- Discuss what a "simple meal" means in your household. Is it soup and bread? Is it a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? **Our simple meals can be a gourmet feast for some families struggling to make ends meet.**
- Rather than having your Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts coffee, make your morning coffee at home. The money you donate could buy a can of coffee for a family.
- If you go out to dinner, have coffee and dessert at home, and donate what it would have cost you at the restaurant.



Envelopes are available on the bulletin tables; you may return your envelope in the basket on the pillar by the Altar or in the collection basket. Thank you so much for prayerfully participating in our Eat Simply program, so that others may simply eat!

PARISH OUTREACH

Long Island Cares Food Drive

Our Parish will again hold a food drive during Lent, to benefit **Long Island Cares**. During these difficult economic times we are all aware of the struggles many of our neighbors endure in meeting the food and financial needs of their households. **Long Island Cares** provides a valuable service in providing food to community agencies and food pantries across Long Island.

Next weekend, March 17/18th, boxes will be available in the atrium for you to place donated food.

Long Island Cares' most needed items: **(No glass jars, please)**

- Pancake/Waffle mixes
- Hot and Cold cereal
- Juice (plastic container)
- Shelf-stable milk (ex. Parmalat)
- Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam (plastic jars)
- Canned Ham, Chicken, Tuna
- Pasta, rice, egg noodles
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Vegetables, Fruits, Soups
- Cookies, Crackers, Granola Bars
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Diapers and Wipes, Feminine Hygiene Products



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

CASH CALENDAR



Parish of the Holy Cross ~ CASH CALENDAR

MARCH 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
\$10 per chance \$60 per day 31 Chances to win \$500 on March 17				\$50	\$50	\$50
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$500
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50 ^{Good Friday}	\$50

Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
 PHONE _____

Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

NAME _____
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 PHONE _____

Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

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Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

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Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

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Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
 PHONE _____

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Saturday, March 10th		5:00 PM
• LEVEL 8 LETTERS TO PASTOR		Worship Area
Sunday, March 11th		All Masses
• LEVEL 8 LETTERS TO PASTOR		Worship Area
• GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY	9:30AM	Worship Area
• HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE	10:30AM	Conference Rm.
• YOUTH NIGHT	6-8PM	Atrium
Monday, March 12th		5:00 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES		Atrium
• PICNIC PLANNING COMM.	7:30PM	Conference Rm.
Tuesday, March 13th		10:00 AM
• IN STITCHES		Fr. Joe Room
• LEVEL 4 MASS WALK THRU	6PM	Chapel
• RECONCILIATION SERVICE	7PM	Worship Area
Wednesday, March 14th		4:00 PM
• LEVEL 4 MASS WALK THRU		Chapel
• LEVEL 6 SEDER	6:30PM	Atrium
• LITURGY COMMITTEE	7:30PM	Fr. Joe Room
Thursday, March 15th		10:00 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY		Fr. Joe Room
• MOMS' GROUP	1:30PM	Sacristy
• LEVEL 6 SEDER	6:30PM	Atrium
• RCIA	7PM	Conference Rm.
Friday, March 16th		3:00 PM
• DIVINE MERCY		Chapel
• EUCHARISTIC ADORATION	4PM	Worship Area
• STATIONS OF THE CROSS	6PM	Worship Area
Saturday, March 17th		5:00 PM
• L.I. CARES FOOD DRIVE		Atrium
• K OF C MEMBERSHIP DRIVE		Atrium
Sunday, March 18th		All Masses
• L.I. CARES FOOD DRIVE		Atrium
• K OF C MEMBERSHIP DRIVE		Atrium
• BAPTISMS	1PM	Worship Area
• YOUTH NIGHT	6-8PM	Atrium

COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Hugh of Lincoln Parish

The Parish of St. Hugh of Lincoln in Huntington Station is now interviewing for a Parish Social Ministry Coordinator. The PSM Coordinator will work with the volunteers (e.g., Core Workers) who serve clients who seek parish assistance through the food pantry and other support services. She/he will also serve as liaison between the parish and various social outreach and advocacy organizations in the community. This is a full-time position. A degree in the social sciences is preferred, as well as experience in PSM. Ability to speak both Spanish and English is highly desirable. Please email cover letter and resume to: Fr. Bob Smith (FrBob@sthugh.org)

Eucharistic Ministers needed for Nursing Home Ministry

St. Patrick's Parish Outreach of Smithtown provides Eucharistic Service to residents of the Nesconset Nursing Home on Sunday morning from 9:30AM – 11:00AM. Volunteers are greatly needed to conduct the communion service. The commitment is approximately once every 6 weeks.

Training will be provided. There is also a need for Eucharistic Ministers to distribute communion. Please consider joining us as we offer spiritual support and comfort to the residents and rehabilitation patients. For further information contact St. Patrick's Parish Outreach at 631-265-2668.



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HOLBROOK
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PORT JEFFERSON STATION
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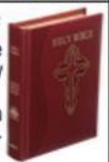
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