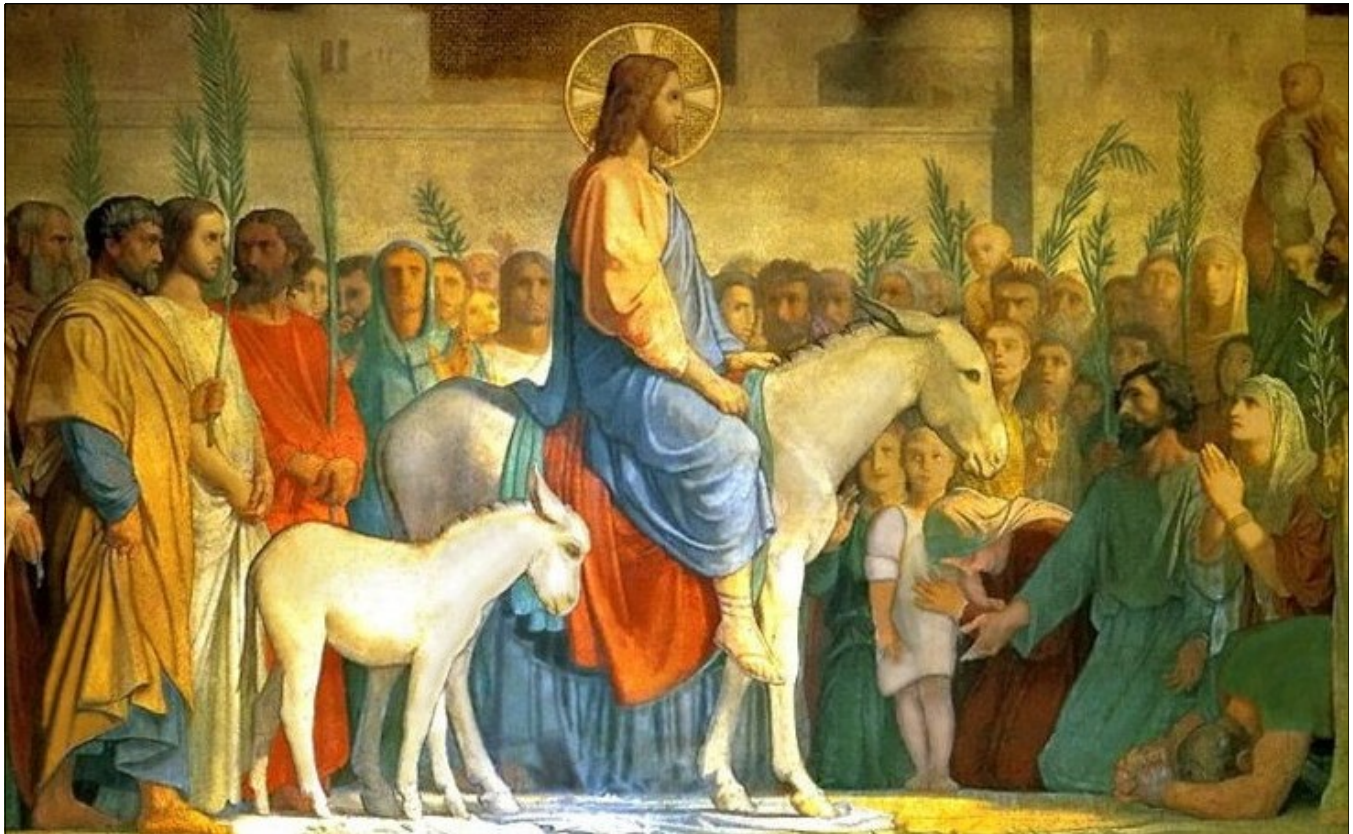


The Parish of the Holy Cross

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!

Palm Sunday - March 25, 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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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



March 31st/April 1st

8:00 PM Fr. Michael
8:00 AM Fr. Frank Eisele
9:30 AM Fr. Frank
11:00 AM Fr. Michael
12:30 PM Fr. Michael

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of March 25th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Elio Parente & Angela Selltiz
Tue. William Ford
(No morning Mass on Wednesday)

Holy Thursday, March 29th, 8PM Mass

People of the Parish

Easter Vigil - Saturday, March 31st, 8 PM Mass

All Easter Prayer Card Intentions

Easter Sunday - April 1st, Masses at

8:00AM, 9:30AM, 11:00AM and 12:30PM
All Easter Prayer Card Intentions

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 Edward Newman
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 April 1, 2018



+ Acts of the Apostles 10:34,37-43
+ 1 Corinthians 5:6-8
+ John 20:1-9

Our Holiest Days

by Father Michael

Today begins the busiest and most sacred days of the year. Extra Masses and special schedules create an abundance of activity. But, beyond the busyness they identify the defining moments we celebrate as a faithful people. These days can be rich experiences of God's grace.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) will be available on Monday from 3:00PM to 5:00PM and 5:30PM to 8:00PM. These extended hours for confession are a practice started many years ago throughout our Diocese. It is an opportunity for the people of Long Island to celebrate God's gift of forgiveness in preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

We are pleased to offer a new spiritual program called Alpha, which will begin after Easter. The first gathering is on April 10. Alpha is a series of presentations that are designed to better understand and deepen the relationship each of us has with Jesus Christ. Each of the evening sessions begins with a meal that the parish will provide. Please see the details in this week's bulletin. We would love to have you be part of the life-giving opportunity.

Divine Mercy Sunday is the Sunday after Easter. St. Faustina was a 20th century saint born in Poland. She was a religious woman and considered by many to be a mystic. Throughout her life she had visions of Jesus who spoke messages to her; many of them focus on God's mercy and the grace of reconciliation/confession. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is attributed to her. It is a series of prayers that have similar structure to the rosary. On Sunday, April 8, we will pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy after the 11:30 Mass (at 12:45). It takes about 20 minutes. Please consider joining us for this special time in prayer. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at the conclusion of the prayer.

We invite you to be part of these days that await us. For some people, part of their spiritual routine is to celebrate the days of Holy week, which is a beautiful practice. For others, it may be a unique time in their life which prompts them to be part of our celebrations. Still others may offer these holy days for issues beyond their own life, such as our nation and our fragile world. On a personal note, this Holy Week for me will be particularly prayerful as I still carry a sense of sadness over my Mom's death. Wherever you are in the journey of your faith please consider being part of our celebrations. There are great beauty and power when many gather to share in these profound traditions. When we allow the story of Jesus to touch our own lives, that is when the fullness of these mysteries truly comes to life. May you have a blessed Holy Week.

The Parish Office is closed on Good Friday, March 30th.

PRAYER AND WORSHIP

Holy Week for Children

During the holiest week of the Church year, we remember what Jesus did for us at the Last Supper and on Good Friday. Children and their families are invited to commemorate these two important days at special prayer services, designed especially for our youngest parishioners.



Please join us at Holy Cross:
Children's Holy Thursday Prayer Service, March 29, 5:00 PM
Children's Good Friday Prayer Service, March 30, 12:00 PM

*Come, bring your family, bring a friend.
Let these holy days deepen your appreciation of God's great love for us!*

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and **Good Friday**. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal may be taken during the day.

RCIA

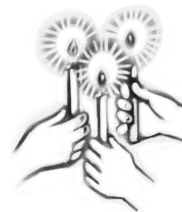
We pray for our RCIA candidate this final week before being received into the Catholic Church. May God bless **Holly Guercio** as she completes her preparation for the celebration of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Below is a short bio.



"My name is Holly Guercio. I was born in Tennessee, and raised with my younger brother, Heath, in the Southern Baptist faith. I graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a major in Recreation and Leisure Studies, and while interning in Florida, I met John Guercio. John, who is Roman Catholic, and I were married in April, 2013. We live in Nesconset, and I currently work as a Recreational Therapist while serving as Health and Wellness Coordinator for the US Dept. of Veteran Affairs in Northport. Our daughter, Madison Mae, was born in November, 2016, and was baptized at Holy Cross. We are expecting another sweet baby girl this August. I am choosing to become Catholic for my family. I believe it is important for my children to grow up in a church family and for all of us to share the same faith. I appreciate the history, tradition, and reverence surrounding Catholicism, and I look forward to joining the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on March 31st."

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

Easter 2018



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

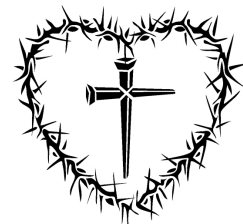
GOOD FRIDAY **MARCH 30, 2018**

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 OUTREACH

Eat Simply

Next Sunday is the beautiful celebration of Easter. Our Lenten journey is coming to an end as we anticipate the joy of Christ's Resurrection!

If you haven't already done so, we ask that you return your "Eat Simply" envelopes by next weekend. On behalf of the hungry we serve each day, we thank you for participating in this special Lenten activity. Your prayerful sacrifices will help feed our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Community Vegetable Garden—Volunteers Needed!!!

Well, it's getting closer to Easter and 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 in our parish who don't have access to fresh vegetables. So, do something wonderful and join us April 21!

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: _____

PARISH NEWS

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



Parish Concert!

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!

Bakers Needed!

Bakers are needed to make baked goods for the **Easter Vigil** celebration which will take place on Holy Saturday, March 31st, at 8PM. If you are interested in baking, please contact Nick and Diane Lombardo at **698-5930**. Thank you!

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 the next page of the bulletin or on our web page, 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.**



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 # _____

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.



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 _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
 PHONE _____

Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

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Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

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Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

NAME _____
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 PHONE _____

Cash Calendar, MARCH 2018

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
 PHONE _____

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Saturday, March 24th	10:00 AM
• WOMEN'S ENRICHMENT	Fr. Joe Room
• CONFESSION	3:30-4:30PM Chapel
Sunday, March 25th	8AM,9:30AM,11AM,12:30PM
• PALM SUNDAY MASSES	Worship Area
• PRAY THE ROSARY	10:30AM Chapel
Monday, March 26th	3-5PM & 5:30-8PM
• CONFESSION	Chapel
• SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES	5PM Atrium
Tuesday, March 27th	10:00 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• REHEARSAL-KIDS' SERVICES 4:30PM	Worship Area
• K OF C OFFICERS' MEETING 7:15PM	Fr. Joe Room
Wednesday, March 28th (No morning Mass today)	
Thursday, March 29th	9:00 AM
• MORNING PRAYER	Worship Area
• CHILDREN'S SERVICE 5PM	Worship Area
• MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 8PM	Worship Area
• ADORATION BLS.D. SACRAMENT until 10PM	Chapel
Friday, March 30th	9:00 AM
• MORNING PRAYER	Worship Area
• CONFESSION 9:30-10AM	Chapel
• CHILDREN'S SERVICE 12PM	Worship Area
• LORD'S PASSION & VENERATION 3PM	Worship Area
<i>(The Parish Office is closed for Good Friday.)</i>	
Saturday, March 31st	9:00 AM
• MORNING PRAYER	Worship Area
• CONFESSION 9:30-10AM	Chapel
• EASTER VIGIL 8PM	Worship Area
Sunday, April 1st	8AM,9:30AM,11AM,12:30PM
• EASTER SUNDAY MASSES	Worship Area

Special Collection

On Good Friday, our parish will take up the annual Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. This collection assists the shrinking Christian community there, a community that struggles to remain in the land of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. Please help support our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land by giving to the Good Friday Collection. Thank you for your support.


Holy Cross Parish Picnic



Save the Date!!!
Sunday, June 10th
1PM - 5PM
at the Nesconset Gazebo
(right after the 11:30 Mass at HC)

Easter Flowers

Easter Flower Offering envelopes may be placed in the collection basket. Names of loved ones will appear in the Easter bulletin.



Easter Intentions

In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Easter Masses, there are prayer cards in the Atrium for you to write your special intentions on. These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Easter Masses.

Long Island Cares Thanks You!

Many thanks to our parishioners who contributed to our Lenten food drive for Long Island Cares. A very generous amount of food was collected and will be distributed across the Island to eliminate hunger among our neighbors. Thank you so much!



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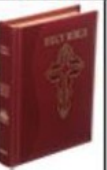


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