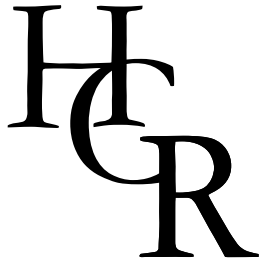




# Holy CrossRoads



*The Good News from the Parish of the Holy Cross*

## *Happy Advent and Christmas Blessings*

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The days of Advent are a unique time. For most people they become busier than usual. Some of the busyness is fun as our homes get decorated and there is an air of joyful expectation for Christmas. Some of the busyness causes stress and tries one's patience as the roads become more crowded and going to a store can be an adventure. Added to these dynamics, the church proclaims that this is a unique time of prayerful waiting. There is

great truth to that invitation, but sometimes it takes effort for us to allow the days to be filled with a sense of prayerfulness.

It is a tremendous gift and blessing to be the pastor of Holy Cross. I know so many people will be here on Christmas to celebrate the birth of our Lord. I don't think there is any other time of the year when our worship area looks more festive than Christmas. It adds to the wonder of the day. I

pray that for all who will be visiting and for all who call Holy Cross their spiritual home they may find great peace and joy in this Christmas celebration.

By: Fr. Michael Holzmann



**SAVE THE DATE:**

Thursday, January 19th

Gather for food, fellowship and prayer as we pray for our nation at a time of new beginning.

## *Thanksgiving Basket Program*

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."  
- Matthew 25:35

A successful Thanksgiving program is a hallmark of the Parish of the Holy Cross. The generosity and love of our parish community enables us to provide the provisions needed for a healthy and festive Thanksgiving dinner.

We distribute between 70 and 90 baskets each year. About 100 volunteers share their time and talent to make this program succeed. Feeding the hungry is something we are all called to do. Shopping and fixing a basket as a family project is a wonderful opportunity to explain to children about poverty and the needy. Delivering the basket enables the recipient to make a face to face connection with our Church community. If the

family comes to pick up the basket, the volunteers in the atrium can give a hug with a sincere wish of "Happy Thanksgiving." Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.  
By: Donna Akuntius



**Christmas Weekend Mass Schedule:**

Christmas Eve:

- 4:00pm
- 6:00pm
- 10:00pm

Christmas Day:

- 8:00am
- 10:00am
- 12:00pm

## PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Founded 1988

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Welcomed as Christ”

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#### PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Mrs. Judith Pickel

#### DIRECTOR OF

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#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Mr. James Reiss

## Financial Peace University — FPU

When Father Michael asked me to write something about the Financial Peace University class we took at Holy Cross, I jumped at the chance. This class was a total game changer for my husband and me.

Was it hard for both of us to commit to every Thursday for 9 weeks? Yes. Did we have a million other things we could have been doing? Yes! Was it worth the commitment? YES!!!

Like most American fami-

lies we have debt and haven't always made the best financial decisions. This class breaks down everything you need to know about finances from basic spending and budgeting, to saving and life insurance.

Why am I most excited to tell everyone about this class? It's the fact that it truly brought peace to me. I no longer am staying up worrying about our financial future. It gave my husband and I the tools we need to tackle everyday finances as a team. Together we sit down and go over our finances with no fights, no

stress and a clear understanding of what we need to do to obtain our goals.

Dave Ramsey puts a wonderful spin on finances and our faith. Knowing that God is really at the helm of our ship, I truly have the peace I have been looking for.

*By: Denise Vibal*

If you're interesting in attending Financial Peace University here at Holy Cross, we will be offering it again. It is nine consecutive Tuesdays, starting January 24th at 7:15. Call or stop by the office to sign up for our third class of FPU.

## Our Annual Basket Raffle



*Above: The Raffle Baskets on display in our Atrium*

On November 20, the Holy Cross Fund Raising Committee hosted its annual basket raffle. Various committees, parish groups and individuals donated baskets to be raffled. This year there were thirty baskets available to win.

Tickets were sold for three weekends in November. Winners were drawn after the 11:30 Mass on November 20. The Fundraising and Hospitality Committees hosted a wine and cheese/cookies and juice social for the drawing. Although winners did not need to be present, many parishioners were there for the festivities. To make sure the many children who were present were not disappointed, goodie bags were given to all in attendance.

Several baskets seemed to draw a lot of attention. In particular, dinner with the pastor was very popular as well as baskets with gift cards to restaurants and shops. There were several baskets particularly designed for children. But, the most popular basket every year is the lottery ticket tree, as the chance takers are motivated by the chance to strike it rich.

Year in and year out, the basket raffle has been one of the most successful fund raising events in the Parish. This year \$5,400 was raised for Holy Cross. Moreover, as anyone who participated in the basket raffle can attest, this was more than fund raising, it was FUN raising too. A special thank you to all who made this event possible and made it such a great success.

Thank you to our donors!

- Hospitality Committee
- Parish Outreach
- Liturgy Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Women's Enrichment
- Knights of Columbus
- Fund Raising Committee
- Pre-Cana
- Pastoral Council
- Religious Education
- Moms' Group
- Choir
- Marotta Spa
- Janet Talay
- Doreen Hau
- Gerry Mendolia
- La Scala
- Little Vincent's
- Nick's
- Paradise Diner
- Acropolis
- Long Island Bagel
- Mama's
- Johnny D's
- Sun Dried Tomato
- Gino's
- Corner Cafe
- Miller's Ale House
- Friday's

*By: Paul Calabro*

## Annual Wreath Sale

The Atrium at Holy Cross was transformed into a Christmas season wonderland during the first weekend in December. There were gifts of all sorts being collected in connection with the Parish Outreach Christmas Angel gift program. And there were 156 beautifully decorated Christmas wreaths being offered for sale as part of the annual Parish fund raising wreath sale.

On Friday morning the undecorated wreaths were delivered and stacked in a large pile. Rows and rows of tables were set up to provide a space for decorating the wreaths and then for showcasing them for sale. Literally hundreds of beautiful bows had been previously made by a member of the Fund Raising Committee, and thousands of decorations were set out for use in adorning the bare wreaths.

About 30 wreath decorators (made up of members of the fund raising committee and other members of the Parish)

*Right: (L to R) Frank Sabella, Paul Calabro, Eddie Guise, Bill & Barbara Burger*

*Far Right: Parishioners making Wreaths*

began the labor of love in uniquely decorating each of the wreaths. It was a lot of fun too, as during the decorating party, Christmas carols filled the Atrium with the joyful sounds of the season. Refreshments and food were served to thank all the volunteers for their hard work in supporting the fund raising activities of the Parish. In just a few short hours, 156 beautifully decorated Christmas wreaths lined the tables and filled the hall with the scent of pine.

At the Masses on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4, all of the wreaths were sold. The wreaths sold for \$25 each which is quite a bargain for large, double sided and beautifully hand decorated wreaths. Not only were the wreaths quite a bargain, the hard work of the many volunteers enabled us to offer them

at a low price and still raise over \$1,900 for the Parish. All in all, it was a successful fund raiser and a real “FUN” raiser too.

We would like to extend a special thank you to the hard work and dedication of the Fund Raising Committee who devote a lot of their time and talent to help make Holy Cross such a great Parish. In addition, thank you to the many other Parishioners and Parish Committees who help make our fund raising events possible. Finally, thank you to the countless Parish members who support the fund raising activities of the Parish with their treasure. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year.

*By: Paul Calabro*



*Above: Ellen Fox, Fr. Michael, Recipient Patti Daly-Matonti, Recipient Steve Matonti, and Jude Pickel*

## St. Agnes Award Recipients

Every year, each parish nominates an individual or couple who are deeply committed and involved in parish life.

On November 20, at the Cathedral in Rockville Centre, Bishop Murphy presented the St. Agnes Award to Steve Matonti and Patti Daly-Matonti.

Steve and Patti are involved in many ways here at the parish. Steve serves as a music minister by playing on Sundays and

for funerals. They are both involved in youth ministry. Patti teaches Religious Education, she is a minister of consolation, and is a Eucharistic minister.

Holy Cross is blessed to have so many parishioners who care deeply for this community. We are very happy to be able to honor Steve and Patti in this special way. Congratulations!

*By: Fr. Michael Holzmann*



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## Women's Enrichment

Where can a woman go to seek respite from the hectic modern day world to be spiritually fed? Well, the answer is Women's Enrichment Day at Holy Cross! This wonderful day took place on October 22 and was attended by women from our parish, as well as those from other parishes. The theme was from the story, "Footprints in the Sand." One attendee said, "I was in awe of how beautifully the church was decorated to reflect the theme of the day. I felt special that the members of the Women's Enrichment Ministry gave their

time, talent and spirit to transform the church atrium into something so lovely!"

The day included uplifting songs, and the speaker, Father Larry Lewis, spoke about how we are never alone, as the Lord is with us especially during difficult times. His talk was honest, easy to understand, and at times, humorous. He used examples from an inspirational DVD to enhance his points.

The day also included a gourmet boxed lunch and an opportunity for the ladies to socialize and connect with each other. In addition, there was a spiritual

craft activity time when they could share their viewpoints while making the craft, which was a beautiful cross with the Footprints story written on it. It was a wonderful time for the women to relax, express feelings and tell of experiences along their spiritual journey. There was also time for prayer and personal reflection.

The Women's Enrichment Ministry at Holy Cross was founded by parishioner Carol Mazurek sixteen years ago. Her vision was to have a day when women could come together to be spiritually refreshed, pampered

and uplifted.

Today's Women's Enrichment Ministry includes 13 ladies who meet once a month to plan this special day. Every detail of the day is attended to by these women who lovingly give their time and talents. Each of these meetings also includes an inspiring prayer service. Members of the ministry consider themselves blessed to give to others in this way. New members are always welcome.

For further information, you may contact Pat McNally at

[piano4tay1@yahoo.com](mailto:piano4tay1@yahoo.com)

By: *Patricia McNally*

## POTHC Takes Manhattan — Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Parishioners took to the streets — the streets of New York that is! After the 11:30 Mass on Sunday, December 11th, about fifty parishioners boarded a coach bus with the destination of Radio City Music Hall. There, we watched the Christmas Spectacular starring the Radio City Rockettes! The show lived up to its name. This trip was sponsored by the newly formed Parish of the Holy Cross Fun Committee. The committee looks forward to coordinating more local trips in the future.

By: *James Reiss*



Pictured above is last year's Women's Enrichment Day

*All Welcome*