

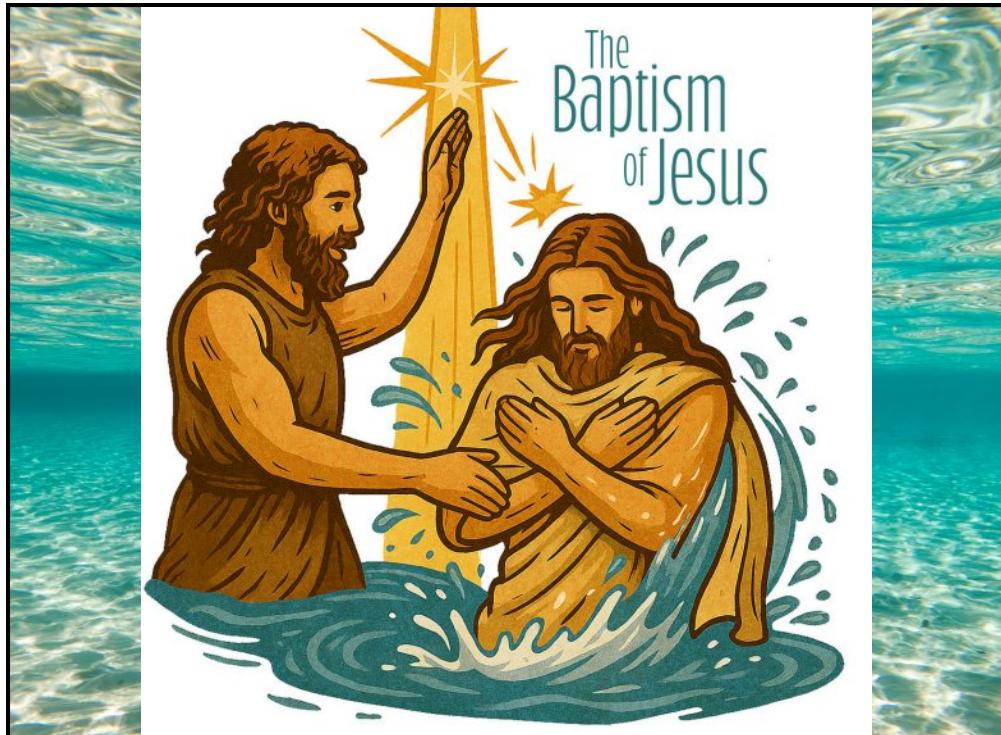


Parish of the Holy Cross

Let All Who Enter Be Welcomed as Christ!

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.



Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - January 11, 2026



Come and Pray with Us!

We celebrate Eucharist

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM;
Saturday 5:00 PM;
Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass
are livestreamed on Facebook.

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM;
Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PASTORAL TEAM

Reverend Michael F. Holzmann..... Ext. 115
Pastor

Deacon Joseph Maffeo..... Ext. 124
Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Judith Pickel..... Ext. 116
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Michele Hall..... Ext. 120
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Jennifer Miller..... Ext. 112
Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Mrs. Kelley Mowat..... Ext. 113
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

PHONE: (631) 265-2200

FAX: (631) 265-2229

EMAIL: parish@holycrossrc.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY - THURSDAY

9 AM - 4 PM

(closed 12:15-1 PM)

Parish Office

FRIDAY HOURS

9 AM - 12 NOON

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth..... Ext. 122
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Mary Pannone..... Ext. 111
Religious Ed. Secretary

Ms. Karina D'Angelo..... Ext. 110
Business Manager

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Webmaster

Mr. Roberto Maza
Custodian

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro
Bulletin Editor
email: susanr@holycrossrc.org

OUTREACH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Evening Hours by Appointment Only

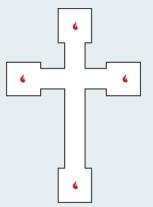
Visit our website at www.holycrossrc.org

for more information on how we can serve you.



BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. In some ways this is a bit of a misplaced feast day. During the Christmas season we focus on the infancy stories of Jesus as a newborn child. Most of us associate a baptism with a newborn child. And so, a decision was made this would be a good place and time to celebrate the baptism of Jesus. However, Jesus was not baptized by John until somewhere around the age of thirty. It was the first major step of the beginning of his public ministry. Immediately after his baptism, he went into the desert for forty days and then began his public work. It seems a more logical place for this celebration would be just prior to Ash Wednesday.

However it was decided, this is our celebration of the day which is the final story of the Christmas season. There is an element of baptism of which we need to be reminded. It is meant to be a defining moment in life. That certainly is what happened to Jesus. Aside from one account of Jesus being separated from his parents around the age of twelve, we have no stories of the early part of his life. Presumably, he lived a somewhat ordinary life. However, at his baptism something significant happened. We hear about the heavens opening, the Spirit descending like a dove, and a voice from the heavens proclaiming Jesus as God's "beloved Son." It was a defining event in his life. From this moment he left for a long period of temptation, prayer, and fasting. Upon return, he began his public ministry.

There are good reasons for us to commonly celebrate infant baptism. But the elements of a dramatic or life-defining moment are lost when you are dealing with a newborn child. We need to remind ourselves what it means to be baptized in the Lord. As with Jesus, it is a moment for us to understand that we too are beloved children in the eyes of God. But once this relationship is understood, we are meant to be empowered to carry on the Lord's work in a significant way. It is not meant to simply be a nice little ceremony that happens once in life. Taking water from the baptism font to make the sign of the cross is a tradition that most Catholics practice. Again, it is not meant to be just some little blessing but rather a renewed desire to understand our kinship with the Lord and to diligently serve him in our lives. We pray that this celebration may renew in us our desire and commitment to be faithful disciples. We are united in being called to share in God's work.

The 11:30 Mass this week will be particularly joyful and energetic as we invite back all of the families who have had a baptism here at Holy Cross in the past year. It is always heartwarming to see mom and dad holding their little bundle of joy as they come forward for a special blessing. The babies are precious to see, but beyond that it is a true inspiration for all of us that the gift of faith is being passed on. We are grateful that many continue to seek Holy Cross as their spiritual home. May we strive to be a place where the power of the gospel is proclaimed and lived.

This week we dismantle all the Christmas decorations. Why is it a happy undertaking to put them up and a tedious chore to take them down?



JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



JANUARY 17

5:00 PM

FR. MICHAEL

JANUARY 18

8:00 AM

FR. MICHAEL

9:30 AM

FR. FRANK / DCN. JOE

11:30 AM

FR. FRANK / DCN. JOE



SCRIPTURE READINGS for JANUARY 18

+ Isaiah 49:3, 5-6

+ 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

+ John 1:29-34

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, January 11th **BAPTISM GATHERING**
9:30AM, Worship Area, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, January 11th **BAPTISM CELEBRATION**
11:30AM, Worship Area

Monday, January 12th **SPECIAL NEEDS**
4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Tuesday, January 13th **IN STITCHES**
10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

Tuesday, January 13th **LEVEL 4 WALK THROUGH MASS**
5:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Wednesday, January 14th **SENIORS**
11:30AM - 2:30PM, Atrium

Wednesday, January 14th **LEVEL 1 CHURCH TOUR**
7:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Thursday, January 15th **SCRIPTURE STUDY**
10:00AM, Atrium

Thursday, January 15th **LEVEL 4 WALK THROUGH MASS**
5:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Sunday, January 18th **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**
11:30AM, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, January 18th **BAPTISMS**
1:00PM, Worship Area



Visit our website at www.holycrossrc.org
to find out more about the different ministries we have to offer,
how you can be involved, and when they meet.

WE PRAY...CELEBRATE...REMEMBER



Upcoming Mass Intentions

Week of Sunday, January 11

9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Jean Everts

Tues. Doris Smith

Wed. Ethel Sveda

Thur. Steve Matonti

Saturday, January 17, 5PM Mass

Mildred Serrantonio, Mary Tyrrell,
Mary Ann Cervoni, Rene Fuentes

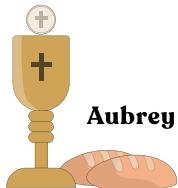
Sunday, January 18, Masses

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM Steve Matonti

9:30AM People of the Parish

11:30AM Mary Tyrrell, James Scheller,
Nancy Back, Angelo Taranto



The **Bread and Wine**
for the week have been
donated in loving memory of
Aubrey Rose Keena & John P. Sibley Jr.
by the Ringhiser family.



We thank
the men and women
who serve in our military
for their service.

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

Bob Alderdice
Alejandro Astegiano
Jo Barry
Kathy Barry
Alison Bilski
Cole Brennan
Laurie Bronzino
Veronica Buscemi
Judy Carlson
Michael Castellano
Mary Champagne
Peter Chirafisi
William Ciccarelli
Stephen Crawford
Kimberly Crawford-Arbocus
Grayson Danielski
Anthony DeGennaro
Manuela Diaz
Peter DiMauro
Ann Egan
Lisa Eger
Vincent Esposito
Ralph Farino
Yolanda Fattaruso
Sienna Fricke
Linda Giordano
James Greene
Linda Heinrichs
Ralph Hughes
Ryan Huscher
Debbie Jablinowski
Kristen Kennedy
Caroline Lazar
Carol Leahy
Victor Lewandowski
Mary Lopez
Gerald Losquadro
Jeanne Marie Malley
Janet Mangano
Olivia Melia
Geraldine Muscarnero
Loretto Narducci
Andrea Nocito
Darin Pitkanen
Patricia Pitkanen
Colleen Prinz
Carina Ranieri
Bernardine Reichbach
Mary Ann Reilly
Rob Remhild
Christine Ridulfo
Lynn Rodger
Sean Romeo
Elaine Ruane
Jacqueline Santamaria
Casey Schultz
Kathy Schwinn
John Serri
Celeste Sichenze
Todd Skala
Sue Southard
Bill Tanner
Calvin Tatone
Grace Van Epps
Peter Warns

**If you would like to have the name of your
loved one listed in our prayers for the sick,
please call 631-265-2200 x122.**



*Have regard to your servant's prayer
and his plea, O Lord my God, heeding
the cry and the prayer that your
servant prays to you.*

2 Chronicles 6:19



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please note the following important dates for our Religious Education Program:

LEVEL 1

**LEVEL 1 Students and family members
will participate in a
CHURCH TOUR**

**Wednesday, January 14th
at 7pm – Worship Area**



LEVEL 4

WALK THROUGH MASS



**Tuesday, January 13th, at 5PM
or
Thursday, January 15th, at 5PM
in the Worship Area**

Please check with your catechist
as to which day you are attending

LEVEL 5

DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES



**at all Masses the weekend of
January 24th & 25th**

BIBLE CLASS

**Monday, Jan. 26th, at 7PM
in the Worship Area**

LEVEL 8

PRAYER SERVICE



**Thursday, January 22nd
at 7PM in the Worship Area**

Attendance is a requirement
for Confirmation

*Direct your children onto the right path,
and when they are older,
they will not leave it.*

-Proverbs 22:6



Children's Liturgy of the Word

**Every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month
at the 11:30AM Mass**



**JOIN US
on Sunday, January 18th.
Children in
Kindergarten through 3rd grade**

PARISH OUTREACH

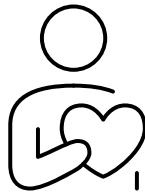


PLEASE
THANK
YOU

Please do not drop off unwanted household items without contacting our Outreach office first.
Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

A Message from our Outreach Office...

As the new year begins and we look to replace, reuse, and recycle household items that are no longer being used at home, we kindly ask that you do not bring your donation up to church without contacting the Outreach office first. Unless Outreach asks for a specific donation, we do not have the space to store items, and your generous donation would be best put to use by bringing it directly to local organizations that collect them. Please contact the Outreach office if you have any questions about your donation. Thank you for your giving spirit!



A special thank you to the friends of Diane Caputo for their generous support for our Outreach Families.



Practice of Charity

(Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2026")

This week Psalm 29:2 urges us: "Give the Lord the glory due His name." The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches us, "Praise is the form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God. It lauds God for His own sake and gives Him glory, quite beyond what He does, but simply because He is" (CCC, 2639). Praise does not ask anything from God. It is a pure gift of your heart to the God who made you. Take time this week to practice the prayer of praise through different forms of prayer.

Adoration: Sit before the tabernacle and praise Jesus and His holy name.

Praise at Mass: Sing the "Holy, Holy, Holy" with all your heart this week.

Music: Listen quietly to a song of praise and sing this as a love song to God with the voice of your heart.

Practicing Small Acts of Kindness

by James Campbell, D Min



Frederic Ozanam (1813-1853) was a Catholic layman in France. In 1832 an epidemic of cholera swept through Paris, killing up to 1,200 people each day.

As Frederic walked through the poorer suburbs on his way to the university where he was a student, he was deeply moved at the hopeless state of families who had lost fathers and mothers. He and his six friends decided to see what they could do. They began by giving a widow the remainder of their winter wood supply.

Frederic and his friends continued their work, and soon they were helping the less-fortunate people of Paris in many ways. Some people scoffed and asked, "How can seven men make a difference?" But they did. Eventually they formed an association and called it the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The society they began has today some 107,000 members in the United States and 1,000,000 worldwide in 130 countries, providing aid in the form of medical supplies, food for the poor, counseling and education programs, and other services.

As Christians, we are called to care for one another and for the world God created through small acts that are part of our daily lifestyle. We don't have to look very far to find where we're needed; if we pay attention, the opportunities are usually right under our noses, in our own families, schools, parishes, and neighborhoods. As Mother Teresa once said, "We can do no great things—only small things with great love."

(This article was brought to you from Loyola Press)



PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



Christmas Flowers in Honor / Memory of...

We remember and pray for all our loved ones -
those living and those who have gone before us.

Thomas Harris
Linda DiOrio
O'Hara Family
Jones Family
Cecilia Lopes Martins
Grandparents of
Francisco & Rosa Martins

Gesualdo Gionfriddo
Santo Minutoli
Genevieve Minutoli
Capt. James V. Amature Jr.
Peter Militello
Josephine Militello
Carmela Terranova
Michael Terranova

Thomas Brophy
Joseph Terranova
James W. Corrigan Jr.
Rosalie Hanchen
Arthur Hanchen
Elizabeth Moros
Danny Moros
John Fausone

Arthur A. Hanchen
Sylvia Tedeschi
Natalie Macuri
Emma Feldman
Fred N. Polik
Eric Hanley
Nancy Mullen

The Lord gives his people strength.
The Lord blesses them with peace.

-Psalm 29:11

HOLY CROSS SENIORS



Our next meeting is on
Wednesday, JANUARY 14th
Join us in the Atrium
from 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM



This weekend at the offertory
we will also be collecting for our
Renovations and Major Repairs fund.
Thank you for your continued support!

**Were you married in the
Parish of the Holy Cross
within the last year?**



If so, and you would like to share the
announcement with our church community,
please email a photo,
along with the names of the bride and groom,
"the new Mr. & Mrs." and the date of the
wedding to the bulletin editor at:
susanr@holycrossrc.org
It will be published in a future bulletin to
share your happy news!

Please include contact info with submission.
Please email any questions to Susan.

Congratulations to all our Newlyweds!

By sending in your photo and information,
you agree to the publication of such in our bulletin
and on the church website.

2025 Statement of Contributions

A statement of your contributions to Holy Cross for the year 2025 will be sent to you upon request. If you would like a copy, please print your name and address on the form below and drop it in the collection basket or at the Parish Office.

Name _____

Address _____

PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



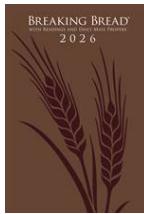
GRANDPARENTS' PRAYER GROUP

**Wednesday, January 21st
at 1:30PM in the Chapel**



Join us with other grandparents to pray for our grandchildren, support what each other is doing and seek ways we can lead and guide them...

New members always welcome!



2026 Missalettes

are still available for purchase.
Stop by the Parish Office
to purchase one for \$12 each.



In Stitches

Join us for conversation and laughs as we work on new or unfinished knitting, crocheting, quilting, needlepoint, crafts or sewing projects.

Tuesday, January 13th, 10AM, Fr. Joe Room

Calling all young people – grade 6 & up BE A JR. LECTOR!



If you like to read to a large group.....
Please consider joining.

Who: Young people grade 6 & up

What: Read the Scriptures at Mass

When: Once a month

Training will be provided.

Contact Michele Hall at the Parish Office (631) 265-2200 x120

Hearing Devices

For parishioners who have difficulty hearing, Holy Cross has individual devices which can amplify sound. They are simple to use and work for those who wear hearing aids and those who do not. If you are interested in using one of these devices, please see the Sacristan or an Usher prior to Mass.



BE A BULLETIN ADVERTISER!

Did you know that the Holy Cross bulletin is printed for us each week free of charge?

Not only that, our parish receives a part of the advertising commission.

So, please frequent the fine establishments that advertise in our bulletin!

If your business could use some exposure, consider advertising in the bulletin. Each weekend, approximately a thousand people attend Mass at Holy Cross, most of whom live and shop in Nesconset and the surrounding areas. Also, our bulletin is on our website holycrossrc.org and reaches thousands of area families with information about your business.

If you are interested in advertising, or would like more information, please call Karina in the parish office at 631-265-2200 ext. 110.



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Love your children—and let them know you love them. Children who experience love find it far easier to believe God loves them.

-Billy Graham



10 Tips for Better Family Mealtimes

by Tom McGrath

(brought to you by Loyola Press)

1. Commit to a set time for meals (daily, weekly, or according to your schedule).
2. Turn off the TV, computers, and handheld games, and don't answer the phone. Don't flip through your mail.
3. Use prayer to mark the transition from busyness to mealtime. Be mindful of those who don't have enough to eat today.
4. Slow down enough to taste and enjoy your food.
5. Hold one conversation at a time. Everyone gets a chance to speak. You can disagree, but you can't be unkind about it.
6. Encourage laughter.
7. Practice manners, such as saying please and thank you and asking politely for people to pass the salt, and so on. Everyone stays at the table until they're excused to leave.
8. Give everyone a role in preparing or cleaning up. Even small children can help set the table or put napkins in place.
9. Regularly invite guests to your table. Welcome them as you would welcome Jesus. Treat your family members the same way.
10. Always end with a quick expression of gratitude to God and thanks to the cook!

Tom McGrath, author of *Raising Faith-Filled Kids* (<https://store.loyolapress.com/raising-faith-filled-kids>), offers 10 ways to help you make the most of your family mealtime.



Winter Windfall

For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine, and this fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish.

At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing, so we will continue as we have done for the past few years with our quarterly drawing.

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase December, January and February.
- Drawing will be held FEB. 26TH

This is the pay scale which will be offered:

- 1 Prize @ \$250
- 2 Prizes @ \$100
- 10 Prizes @ \$50
- 15 Prizes @ \$25

This formula was based upon selling 250 tickets @ \$10 each.
If more than 250 tickets are sold, the number of prizes will be increased.

Please cut out and use the tickets below.

You may return your entries by placing them in an envelope and depositing it in the basket on weekends, or returning them to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your support!



Winter Windfall

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____

Phone _____

Winter Windfall

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Town _____

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Winter Windfall

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Town _____

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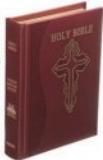
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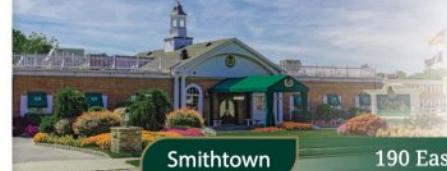
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631.744.9700