

# Parish of the Holy Cross

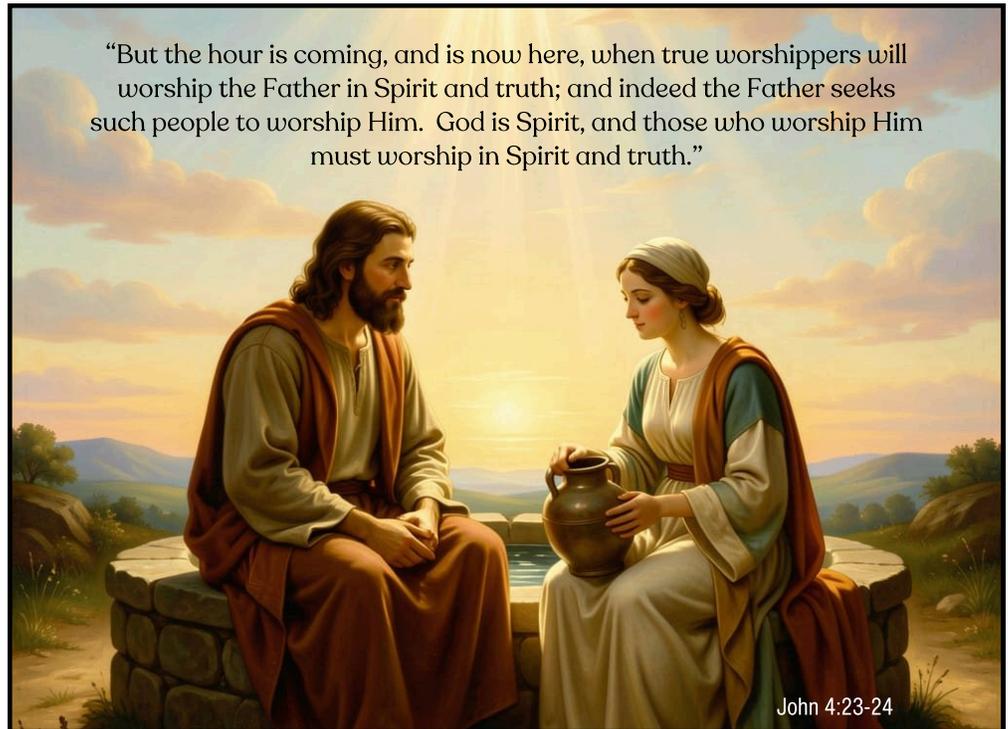


*Let All Who Enter Be Welcomed as Christ!*

## **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.

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and truth; and indeed the Father seeks such people to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and truth.”



## Third Sunday of Lent - March 8, 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

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200  
[www.holycrossrc.org](http://www.holycrossrc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset](http://www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset)



# 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**

## 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**
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**FAX: (631) 265-2229**  
**EMAIL: [parish@holycrossrc.org](mailto: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**

**OUTREACH OFFICE HOURS:**  
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Evening Hours by Appointment Only



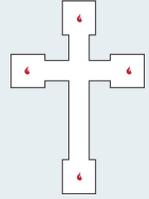
“The LORD is gracious and righteous;  
our God is full of compassion.”  
- Psalm 116:5

Visit our website at [www.holycrossrc.org](http://www.holycrossrc.org)  
for more information on how we can serve you.



## LESSONS FROM FRED'S MOUNTAIN

*Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael*



I've only had one experience of depending on a well as the sole source of my water. During a winter break when I was in the seminary, we were offered the opportunity to make a retreat. It would be led by two priests, and it was in a challenging environment. It was a small house near a mountaintop outside of Ellenville, New York. The house was owned by Msgr. Fred Shafer who was a holy priest of the Diocese and nurtured many vocations through his years. There was no electricity, and all light was provided through gas lamps. The only source of heat was a wood burning stove. The road ended two miles before the house, but snowmobiles were available for the last leg. All water had to be hauled to the house from a nearby well. We were all given different tasks to share in the work of keeping the place going during the midst of a week of cold winter weather. I was assigned water patrol.

Several times a day, I had to walk about 200 feet to the well. It was a hole in the ground that was filled to ground level with water. The stones surrounding the well were covered in ice, but the well water itself never froze in spite of bitter temperatures. I would dip a small pail into the well and slowly fill up five-gallon buckets that were then hauled up to the house. No matter how quickly or how much water I took out of the well, its level never went down. It was a tiring task, but there was something very prolific about it. We were dependent on this mysterious source of water to sustain our time on the mountain.

Sometimes the necessity to focus on basic needs helps us to realign the way we look at life. Sometimes the simple becomes the pathway to something profound. The Samaritan woman in today's gospel experienced this in her encounter with Jesus. She was a woman who had been beat up by life. The very fact that she was a woman from a despised place already demanded that she could only use the well at "off peak" times. Her own life choices (multiple marriages) made her self-respect and reputation even lower. None of that mattered to Jesus. The encounter begins by Jesus saying, "Give me a drink." He needs her help. She is shocked that He is not only talking to her but wanting to engage with her. Jesus understands her past but holds none of it against her. He sees a woman who not only thirsts for water, but for justice, forgiveness, dignity and to know the goodness and power of God. Jesus freely offers all of that, and more.

Not only does Jesus embrace this woman in His love, but He empowers her to be one who speaks of His power. Her qualification for doing so is not because of any achievement or recognition by others but rather because she was able to humbly receive what was offered to her, forgiveness and unconditional love. When one is convinced of God's love dwelling within, that is all that is needed to do great things. Her own journey and transformation became her credentials for this missionary work.

Allow the power of God to be at work in your life. Remember, God knows the entirety of our lives. He knows our brokenness; He knows our sins. We have already shared in the life-giving waters of baptism. But sometimes we need to be reminded of that gift.

The water in the well on Fred's mountain never froze. It offered sustenance in abundance for the duration of our stay. There was some effort in hauling it around, but ultimately it was a gift. Allow the life of Jesus to transform our hearts and pray for that same gift to touch all God's people (especially those who we struggle to love).

2026		MARCH					
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					

# ON THE CALENDAR

## PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



**MARCH 14**

5:00 PM

FR. MICHAEL/DCN. JOE

**MARCH 15**

8:00 AM

FR. MICHAEL/DCN. JOE

9:30 AM

FR. MICHAEL

11:30 AM

FR. MICHAEL



## SCRIPTURE READINGS for MARCH 15

+ 1 Samuel 16:1b; 6-7,10-13a

+ Ephesians 5:8-14

+ John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

- Saturday, March 7th** ..... HOLY HOUR  
3:45PM - 4:45PM, Worship Area
- Saturday, March 7th** ..... 1<sup>st</sup> SCRUTINY  
5:00PM Mass, Worship Area, Fr. Joe Room
- Sunday, March 8th** ..... GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY  
9:30AM Mass, Worship Area
- Sunday, March 8th** ..... BAPTISMS  
1:00PM, Worship Area
- Monday, March 9th** ..... SPECIAL NEEDS  
4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium
- Tuesday, March 10th** ..... IN STITCHES  
10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room
- Tuesday, March 10th** ..... LEVEL 2 RECONCILIATION  
4:00PM OR 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium, Chapel
- Wednesday, March 11th** ..... SENIORS  
11:30AM - 2:30PM, Atrium
- Wednesday, March 11th** ..... YOUTH PLANNING MEETING  
7:00PM, Fr. Joe Room
- Thursday, March 12th** ..... SCRIPTURE STUDY  
10:00AM, Atrium
- Thursday, March 12th** ..... OCIA  
7:00PM, Fr. Joe Room
- Saturday, March 14th** ..... LEVEL 2 RECONCILIATION  
9:30AM, Worship Area, Atrium, Chapel
- Saturday, March 14th** ..... L.I. CARES FOOD DRIVE  
5:00PM, Atrium
- Saturday, March 14th** ..... KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SALES  
5:00PM, Atrium
- Sunday, March 15th** ..... L.I. CARES FOOD DRIVE  
All Masses, Atrium
- Sunday, March 15th** ..... KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SALES  
All Masses, Atrium
- Sunday, March 15th** ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> SCRUTINY  
9:30 Mass, Worship Area, Fr. Joe Room
- Sunday, March 15th** ..... CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD  
11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND, IS NOW THE NEW DATE FOR THE SOUP SUPPER!**

### An Invitation from the Sisters of St. Joseph



In celebration of National Catholic Sisters Week (March 8-14), the Sisters of St. Joseph warmly invite you to **join us at Holy Spirit Convent at Cleary School on Sunday, March 8, 2026**, for a cup of coffee and warm conversation.

**You're welcome to drop in between 1:00PM and 4:00PM.**  
[www.catholicsistersweek.org](http://www.catholicsistersweek.org)

Visit our website at [www.holycrossrc.org](http://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, March 8

#### 9:00AM Masses:

**Mon.** Kerri Ann Pavan

**Tues.** Betty Gaynor

**Wed.** Frank Kane

**Thur.** James W. Corrigan Jr.

### Saturday, March 14, 5PM Mass

Francis Giambanco, Joyce Bleimeyer,  
Phoebe Bleimeyer

### Sunday, March 15, Masses

#### Fourth Sunday of Lent

**8:00AM** Steve Matonti

**9:30AM** Janet Hill, Joseph Fanuele,  
Manuel Coelho, Francisco Veloso,  
Cecilia Lopes

**11:30AM** People of the Parish

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

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



## *Banns of Marriage*

Christine Holmes & Sean Lee



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



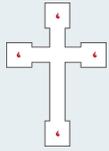
**HOLY HOUR**  
**Saturday, March 7th**  
**3:45pm - 4:45pm**  
**in the Worship Area**

Please come and spend some time  
with the Lord in personal prayer  
as you pray before the Blessed Sacrament  
during the Parish Holy Hour.

*May my prayer be set  
before you like incense;  
may the lifting up  
of my hands be like the  
evening sacrifice.*

Psalm 141:2





# BECOMING CATHOLIC - PART 2

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Picking up from last week's article, those wishing Baptism along with those wishing to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church continue to study and learn more about our Faith.

During this time, those wishing Baptism are called Catechumens and receive anointings, blessings and other rituals known as scrutinies on certain Sundays of Lent. These take place at Mass with the support of the Christian community. Also at this time, when the Team believes that the Catechumens are ready to make a faith commitment to Jesus in the Catholic Church, they are invited to attend the **RITE OF ELECTION**. This is usually done in a large setting with others from the local Diocese. This normally takes place on the First Sunday of Lent when the Catechumens formally request entry into the Catholic Church so they may receive Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. They formally enter their names in a special book before one of the Bishops of the Diocese. Going forward, they are now referred to as the **ELECT**.

These final weeks are referred to as a **PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT** which leads up to the Easter Vigil. Prayer and continued study continue along with the prayers of the local parish community, all leading up to the beautiful celebration of the Easter Vigil where they will become fully initiated along with the candidates needing Confirmation and Eucharist. This experience is the highlight of the year for parishes as they welcome new Catholics into the fold!

Following this celebration, the newly formed continue to meet and learn more about their Faith and how to live it out. This time frame is called **MYSTAGOGY**. At this time, they learn about the mission of the Church and how they will live out their baptismal call.

Please continue to pray for those among us in our OCIA group this year, and join us all at the Easter Vigil on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

*Have a prayerful, blessed week ahead!*



## **For the Ride Home..... a Gospel Reflection for families**

### **What did you hear today in the Scriptures?**

**In today's Gospel, we learn about a meeting between Jesus and a woman at a well.** In those times, water was only gotten by visiting a well. Indoor plumbing did not exist. This is one of the most beautiful stories in the bible. Jesus was tired from his journey, sits by the well and asks this woman for a drink of water. The woman was surprised that Jesus would even speak to her. People of different backgrounds were not friends and never spoke to one another. We see that Jesus was different. He wanted to show her that no matter what she did in her life, she could receive mercy and forgiveness. Jesus offers Himself to us with the greatest of love that never ends. He always takes care of us.



**This week, how can you bring others to Jesus? How would you try to do that?**

*Think of a few ways and then give it a try!*

# PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



## OUTREACH & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION HANDS OF COMPASSION



### How it works:

To help, we are asking each grade to donate their assigned pantry item and return it on their assigned weekend.

We are only asking for one item per student.

***Please see the list below for your grade's assigned item and weekend:***

<u>Grades 2 &amp; 5</u>	<u>Grade 3</u>	<u>Grades 1 &amp; 4</u>	<u>Grades 6 &amp; 8</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>
One (1) can of vegetables (any kind)	One (1) jar of grape jelly	One (1) jar of mayo	One (1) jar of pasta sauce	One (1) bottle of juice (non-refrigerated)
2/28 - 3/1	3/7 - 3/8	3/14 - 3/15	3/21 - 3/22	3/28 - 3/29

***After you place your item in the wagon, please write your name on a paper hand and leave it on the table so we can place it on the Hands of Compassion board.***

**Thank you, in advance, for making Outreach families a part of your Lenten Journey.**



## Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00PM in the Worship Area

**The entire family is invited to participate in praying the Stations of the Cross.**

## ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT LENT & EASTER

*can be found on the parish website all in one place!*

Go to the parish website homepage, scroll down to find **"All Things Lent to Easter,"** and click to find a dedicated webpage just for updated Lent and Easter announcements and events, such as:

- Holy Week & Easter Schedule
- Lenten Gospel Reflections for the family
- "Eat Simply" Lenten Campaign & other event info

### LENTEN FAMILY CALENDAR

The full calendar can be found on the parish website



**We are placing our "Hands of Compassion" intentions on the altar during Lent.**

If you are in need of a **"Hands of Compassion"** cut-out to place your intention for Lent, it can be found in this bulletin or on the parish website.

On the homepage, scroll down and click on **"All Things Lent and Easter,"** and then scroll down. You can download and print at home. Extra copies are also available in the Atrium.

# Eat Simply...So Others May Simply Eat



## EAT SIMPLY IDEAS

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

- **If you give 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 a Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts coffee**, make your morning coffee at home. The money you donate can buy a can of coffee for a family.
- **If you are ordering dinner**, pick up food instead of using Door Dash / Uber Eats. (Many restaurants have curbside now.) Make a simple dessert for after dinner and donate what it would have cost had you ordered something in.
- **Try a plant-based meat alternative.** They aren't always a healthier option, but they are gentler on the earth.
- **Use the Mercy Meatless Monday's program** from the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas to choose alternatives to meat on Mondays and Fridays throughout Lent.

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



## Parish Outreach



Outreach is currently in need of the following items for the food pantry.

**The collection will be this weekend March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Pasta Sauce in a jar - Mayo - Coffee  
Paper Towels - Shampoo - Toothpaste**

Thank you for checking expiration dates before donating.

Thank you for your continued support!



BECAUSE IT TAKES MORE THAN FOOD TO FEED THE HUNGRY



Next weekend (March 13-15) boxes will be available in the atrium for you to place donated non-perishable food.

# Food Drive

Please bring your non-perishable food items to Mass the weekend of **March 14th & 15th**



No glass jars, please



## Long Island Cares most needed items:

- Pancake / Waffle Mix
- Hot and Cold Cereal
- Juice (plastic containers)
- Shelf-stable milk (example: 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 / Body Wash or Body Soap
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Diapers and Wipes / Feminine Hygiene Products
- Pet Supplies



Our parish will again hold a food drive during Lent to benefit Long Island Cares. During 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.

**Boxes will be available on Friday, March 13th, in the Atrium to drop off non-perishable food items the weekend of March 14th & 15th**

*"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*



# LEVEL 8 RETREAT

## “ROOTED IN THE LOVE OF THE CROSS”

Our Level 8 students are preparing to make their Confirmation this spring. They spent an evening with Tony Bellizzi. Tony spoke about his ministry of bringing young people the good news of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ & participation in the life of His church. He also brought the young people together, providing powerful experiences of God’s powerful love & truth for them through prayer.



The theme for this year’s retreat was **“Rooted in the Love of the Cross.”** Students each made a “leaf” thumb print on the poster, representing their growth in God’s love.



Speaker and facilitator for the evening:  
Tony Bellizzi, with Fr. Michael



You can visit Tony’s websites at: [www.tonybellizzi.com](http://www.tonybellizzi.com) and also [www.goodshots.org](http://www.goodshots.org)

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**Level 2  
Reconciliation**

**Tuesday  
March 10th  
at 4pm or 6pm**

or

**Saturday  
March 14th  
at 9:30am**

REMINDER

GOD  
LOVES  
YOU!

**Level 1**

Draw What You See  
at the Masses  
the weekend  
of March 14th & 15th

**DRAW WHAT YOU SEE  
the weekend of March 14 & 15**

Please have your child take a piece of paper and crayon at the table in the atrium and draw what they see in Church and then return the drawing to the basket marked "Completed" in the atrium.

The pictures will be displayed during the weekend of March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**LEVEL 6 SEDER**

**Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM  
&  
Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6PM  
in the Atrium**

Please check with your catechist to find out which date that you are assigned.

If you have any questions, please call the Religious Ed. Office at (631) 265-2200 Ext. 112

**LEVEL 4  
RECONCILIATION**

**Wednesday, March 18th**

**at 5:30PM  
and 7:00PM**

**in the  
Worship Area**

**LEVEL 8  
CONFIRMATION  
INTERVIEWS**

**Monday, March 23rd  
from 6-8pm  
and  
Thursday, March 26th  
from 6-8pm**

Students have been assigned a specific day and time.

**Volunteers  
needed**

**Catechists  
for our  
Religious Ed.  
Program**

**Catechists Needed for 2026-2027**

*We are seeking volunteers willing to share faith with our parish children.*

Special Need Catechists, Mondays 4pm-6pm

**Level 2 Catechists** for the following areas – Cherokee, Wenonah, Bretton Woods, Mills Pond, Eugene Auer, Mt. Pleasant, Hiawatha, Slocum and Cayuga

If you enjoy working with children and are available for 1 hour a week, please call Jennifer or Mary at the Religious Education office at 631-265-2200



# PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



This weekend at the offertory we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund.

*Thank you for your continued support!*

## Catholic Relief Services Collection - March 15, 2026

Next week our parish will take up **The Catholic Relief Services Collection**. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad. Next week, please give generously to the collection and reveal Christ's love to those most in need. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).



**An Invitation to all Girl Scouts to join us**

**Sunday, March 8th  
9:30am Mass**

*(Daylight Savings Time Weekend)*

**All Girl Scouts and their families are welcome!**

*(You do not need to be a parishioner.)*

**Please arrive at 9:15am**

**Scouts will walk in with the procession.**

**Please wear your Girl Scout best with vest/sash.**

**\*\*Please stay for a quick photo after Mass on the altar\*\***

**Parish of the Holy Cross  
95 Nichols Road, Nesconset**

**RSVP to Lisa Eger at:  
lisameger@gmail.com  
(to reserve seating and patches)**

## Winter Windfall Cash Calendar Winners!



### Winners at \$25

JoEllen May Wadsworth  
Linda Spahr  
Paul Wangenstein  
Denise Greening  
Charlie Schreiber  
Sean Reich  
Wendy Ringhiser  
Liliana Donlon  
Jake & Chaz Modica  
Arlene Pisapia  
MaryEllen McCutchen  
Mary Estock  
JoAnn Leptich  
Theresa Minerva  
Linda Spahr

### Winners at \$50

Marilyn Collins  
Jose Del Cid  
Liliana Donlon  
Trish Kearns  
Diane Lombardo  
Anthony Sangimino  
Theresa Minerva  
Annmarie Milne  
Trish Kearns  
Gerald Iacono

### Winners at \$100

Sarah Reich  
Virginia Fuentes

### Winner at \$250

Dianna Mulderig



## Our parish is always in need of more Liturgical Ministers...

The Diocese of Rockville Center will offer training for those who wish to serve as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors. If you are interested, please speak with Fr. Michael, as a letter on your behalf needs to be submitted to the Bishop's Office. Please check below for the Spring Training dates and sites. You must be registered for the class as no walk-ins are permitted. If you have any other questions, please contact Michele Hall at: [mhall@holycrossrc.org](mailto:mhall@holycrossrc.org)

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion: Part A** - This training is required for **all** those who are beginning as Ministers. This "BASIC" training is required for **all** Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Those who wish to minister in hospitals, nursing homes and to the homebound are required to attend Part B training in addition to BASIC training. One **must** attend Part A training prior to Part B training. A **Lector Workshop** is available for both new and experienced lectors.

### Date and Locations for Liturgical Minister Training 2026

#### • Lector Workshop and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - Part A:

**Tuesday, April 21** - St. Elizabeth/Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall; 7 pm - 10 pm

**Monday, April 27** - St. Agnes Cathedral Parish Hall/RVC - Msgr. Kelly Parish Center; 7 pm - 10 pm

You may ask your pastor to register you for EITHER the Lector Workshop OR Extraordinary Minister training at these sessions.

#### • Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion - Part A:

**Saturday, May 30 - Immaculate Conception/Westhampton Beach** - Parish Center; 9:00 am - 12 noon.

There is NO Lector Workshop offered at this session.

You may only be registered with your Pastor's nomination. Doors open 30 minutes before the training start time.

End time is an estimate, session may end prior to 10 pm, please be prepared.

#### • Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion - Part B - presented in conjunction with Catholic Health.

**These sessions will run from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Doors open at 6:30 pm.**

**Monday, May 4** - St. Agnes Cathedral Parish Hall / RVC - Msgr. Kelly Parish Center

**Tuesday, May 26** - St. Elizabeth/Melville - Msgr. Kane Hall

A letter from your pastor will be required to reserve your space at any of these trainings and must be received at least five days prior to the session you wish to attend. To request registration for any of these sessions, please contact your rectory. Do not call the host parishes with questions.

For questions, call Suzanne Lynn at 516-744-6850. Thank you for your interest.

# PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



## COFFEE with JESUS

Lenten Reflections on the Meaning of Season in Christian Life

**Join Bishop Andrzej**

**Fridays of Lent**  
**March 13 & 27 at 11AM**  
**for Webinar Lenten Reflections**

**Registration Required**  
Call Suzanne at 516.744.6850  
or email - [westernvicariate@drvc.org](mailto:westernvicariate@drvc.org)  
to receive Zoom Webinar Link



## Practice of Faith

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

The Samaritan woman went to the well to draw earthly water. She left with the living water she had always desired. She also gave Jesus a gift. He asked for a drink, but not from Jacob's well. He wanted to quench his thirst from the well of the woman's heart. She satiated his thirst by giving him the gift of her faith. Then she gave Jesus more. She answered the spiritual thirst of her neighbors by filling them from Jesus' well of living water. Her faith satiated their thirst for God. How can you help satisfy Jesus' thirst for faith-filled souls?

Volunteer in a soup kitchen. Help satiate physical and spiritual needs.

Organize a writing campaign to reach out to those in need of companionship. Gather parishioners to write cards to nursing home residents.

Invite a friend to Mass so that he or she may be filled with the living water and satisfy Jesus' thirst for faith-filled souls.



**We will be having a Soup Supper**  
**on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:00pm**  
**and we are looking for soup makers.**

**DATE CHANGE!**

If anyone can make a crock pot of soup and bring it, or drop it off, on the 22nd, please call the parish office and let us know. *Thank you!*

**Lenten Soup Supper, Sunday, March 22nd**  
**at 5:00pm in the Atrium**

Enjoy a light soup supper, accompanied by Lenten Prayer, with your family and fellow parishioners.

**Please return the RSVP slip to the Parish Office by Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.**

I/We will be attending the Soup Supper on Sunday, March 22nd:

Name:

Number attending:





# Hands of Compassion



This year we as a parish will embrace the theme of a people **“Called to Compassion.”**

## *What does compassion mean to you?*

Think of being called by name to share in this experience. Think about compassion you have received. Let that gift inspire your life to be a means of love and compassion to those who you meet.

Lent traditionally is a time when we reflect upon our lives and actions. Take time in prayer to look into your own heart.

## *How can you be more like the heart of Jesus?*

*In what ways can you become the eyes, the hands of Christ, offering compassion to your family, your community, the world?*

We ask you to think about the ways in which God may be inviting you to be an instrument of compassion. Write down what it is YOU can do so that God’s love is brought to the world in some way.

***Write your intention below in the heart, cut on the dotted line, and bring it with you when you come to Mass on the weekend.***

You will be invited to place it in the wooden bowl on the offertory table before Mass begins.

***“Christ has no body now but yours. Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.”***  
~ St. Teresa of Avila



Cut along the dotted line.

Bring this to Mass with you and place it in the wooden bowl on the offertory table.



# Spring Cash Fling



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 March, April, and May.**
- **Drawing will be held June 1st**

**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!



### Spring Cash Fling

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Spring Cash Fling

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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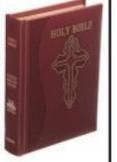
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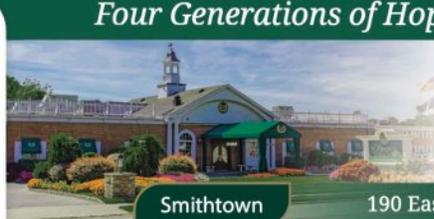


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