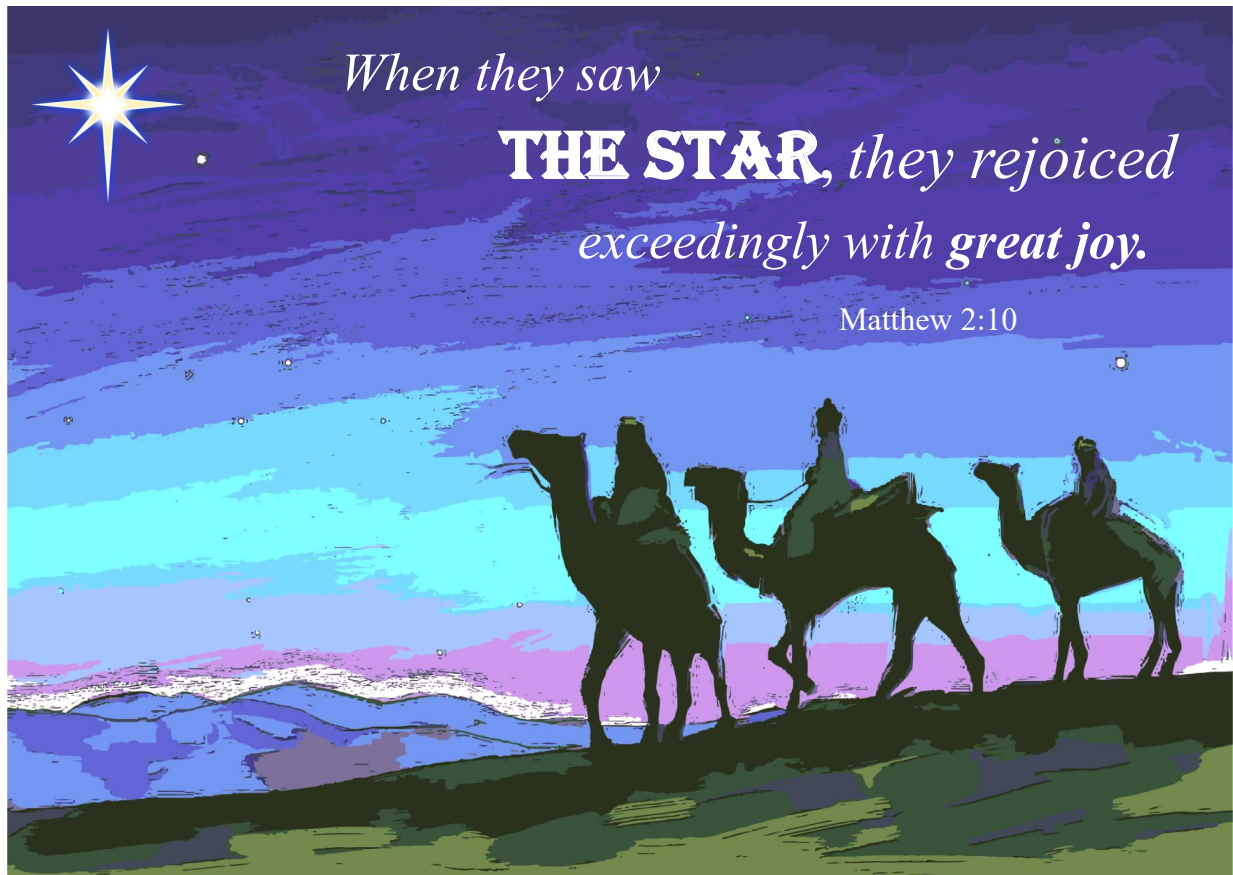


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LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



Come and pray with us!

The Epiphany of the Lord - January 3, 2021

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 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 live streamed on Facebook.)

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Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
Pastor, ext.115

Deacon Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister, ext.119

Mrs. Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Michele Hahn
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112
Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Kelley Mowat, ext.113
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano
Business Manager, ext.110

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein
Youth Minister

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111
Religious Education Secretary
(hcreled@optonline.net)

Mrs. Barbara Shipman
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Mr. Roberto Maza
Mr. Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Remembering Our Sick

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

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

Kathy Barry	Claire Becker
Patricia Becker	Ann Callari
Manuela Diaz	Joseph DiPalermo
Ann Egan	Jim Emerson
Sienna Fricke	Phil Graziose
Bob Grieco	Debbie Jablinowski
Gerald Losquadro	Chuck Madden
Olivia Melia	Joseph Santamaria
Barbara Sherry	Marlene Starr
David Velkas	Doreen Velkas
Judy Viskupic	Peter Warns

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick, please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 x122 or email to pothc@optonline.net .

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of January 3rd, 9AM Mass

Mon. Lori & Steve Drey (living)
Tue. Julius Varricchio
Wed. Tim & Anita Drey (living)
Thu. Henri-Robert Lamarque

Saturday, January 9th, 5 PM Mass

Alice Maggio, Lorraine Infante Keefe, Daniel Creighton Kirk, Marietta Giaramidaro, Frank Russo

Sunday, January 10th, Baptism of the Lord

8:00 AM Julius Varricchio
9:30 AM People of the Parish
11:30 AM Linda Marino, Michael & Natalie Kecki, Frank & Anna Wysocki, Wojtek Wysocki, Bogdan Wysocki, Aubrey Rose Keena



Scripture Readings for January 10, 2021



+ *Isaiah 55:1-11*
+ *1 John 5:1-9*
+ *Mark 1:7-11*

WELCOME 2021!

by Father Michael

I think all of us are happy to have 2020 in the rearview mirror of our lives. While the beginning of 2021 will still hold challenges and hard times, there is more hope for the future than there has been in many months. The losses and tolls on people's lives that happened in this past year will not quickly pass. There have been countless people who experienced sacrifice and hardship on very deep levels. The message of our faith and hope in our Lord became a lifeline. Holy Cross became a place of spiritual refuge for many. We continue to trust in our God to lead us through all that is before us. The Spirit will allow us to gain wisdom and a deeper appreciation for life in the days that lie ahead.

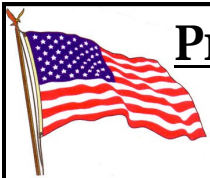
What happened on Christmas? Our reservations for Mass "sold out" very quickly. We assumed and prepared for increased crowds at all the Masses on Christmas. But it never materialized. Although we had up to about 50 additional seats for walk-ins at all the Masses, only a handful of them were used. This experience was not unique to Holy Cross. Every priest I have spoken to reported a similar experience in their parishes. I don't regret the effort we put into planning. I am so grateful to the many people who stepped up to help with the many necessary tasks. For a variety of reasons, many people opted not to be here in person. (Between the two Christmas Masses we live streamed, we had almost 2,000 views.) Fewer worshipers created a different experience for Christmas. Like most everything else this year, there was not the "business as usual" experience.

The one change that came about this year that has received overwhelming enthusiasm and support is the placement of the creche in front of the altar. This will now be the place where it will be displayed for future Christmas Masses.

I still have not gotten to see my grandniece who is now 10 months old. A trip to Florida has not been feasible, for obvious reasons. I'm hoping by the spring overall numbers will drop to safe levels for travel and that quarantine and testing requirements will no longer be necessary. There are some phenomenal airfares that are available. I'm currently holding a reservation in March for a Jet Blue flight to Tampa for only \$21! (There's no secret trick in getting this fare, that's what they are selling for.) Unfortunately, the return flight is more costly at \$39. I have never seen rates like this before. I'm not packing yet; we will see what happens over the coming months.

Here's to a better 2021.

PARISH NEWS



Pray for Our Military

SPC(E-4) David Basler
Cpl Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
SA Anthony J. DeNicola
FC2 Lane Dyar
AS Brandon Ferrara
SSG Daniel Frost
MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA
WO Christopher Kaminsky
Sgt Michael J. Knipper, USMC
SSGT Ryan Mauldin
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
Lt Ryan Montvydas
IT1 Jason Mulderig
Cpl Michael Palagonia, USMC

We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service. Please let us know if their service is finished or their title has changed.

*May God bless all who serve our nation.
Pray for Peace!*

Special Collection

Next weekend, January 9th/10th, will be our collection for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund.



We are grateful for your continuing support of this important collection!

Celebrants for Upcoming Masses



January 9th/10th

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

*The **Bread and Wine** for the week January 3rd-9th have been donated in loving memory of **Matthew Rizzo Jr.** by Mom and Dad.*



In Memory of

We pray for the following parishioners whose funerals were celebrated at Holy Cross in December:

*Anna Fini
Elizabeth Shea
John Shatinsky*

May they rest in peace,
and may their loved ones be consoled.



**Holy
Baptism**

*Holy Cross welcomes
these children
Baptized in
December*

**Nina Isabelle Baudo
Remington William Dunbar
Chase Parker Gempel**

LITURGY BYTES

The 3 Kings

This weekend we celebrate the Epiphany, Little Christmas or the feast of the 3 Kings as it is known. The word “epiphany” means manifestation or “showing forth.” This feast celebrates God’s bringing the Gentiles to meet the newborn Savior. Found not in a palace, but in a simple traveler’s lodging, the infant Jesus reveals something of God’s nature, humility and a way of behaving.



The visit of the Magi (the 3 Kings) occurs directly before the story of the Holy Family fleeing into Egypt. We know little about the Magi. They come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following an astrological sign, so we believe them to be astrologers.

Because there are three gifts mentioned, we assume there were three of them. Also, in Matthew’s Gospel, the Magi represent the Gentiles’ search for a savior. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. The gifts that they bring also foreshadow Jesus’ role in salvation: the gold represents Jesus’ kingship; the frankincense is a symbol of Jesus’ divinity because priests burned that substance in the temple; the myrrh was something used to prepare the dead for burial, thus anticipating Jesus’ death.

One of the many customs centering around this feast is the blessing of the doorposts in people’s homes. Some use chalk to mark the year and the initials of the Kings over their front doors. Others prepare simple signs and hang them over their doors. Here’s what it would look like this year:

20 + C + M + B + 21

The year is marked by the year of blessing—2021. The cross marks the points on the compass; the initials stand for the Kings: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar.

The letters CMB can also stand for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” which means “*May Christ bless this house.*”

Simple prayer of blessing for you to use for your front door:

Lord, God of heaven and earth, you revealed your only begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Bless this house and all who inhabit it. Fill them (us) with the light of Christ, that their (our) concern for others may reflect your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Have a blessed, safe and healthy week~~~~~*Michele Hahn*

BACKGROUND SCREENING UPDATE

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People:

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

1. Attend **Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)**
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screen application. The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5-year intervals. volunteers/employees.

A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: www.Virtus.org
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct - provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application offered during the Virtus registration process.

Active Volunteers:

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened, you may be at - or beyond - the **5yr. rescreening requirement**. If this is the case, you will receive an email from **Sterling Volunteers** asking you to complete the background screening application on-line. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. ***Please be aware - this is not a scam nor has your e-mail been hacked.*** The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically re-sign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

Edit Your Virtus Account:

To access your Virtus account www.Virtus.org you will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or helpdesk@virtus.org. Once in your account, review your account information - particularly your e-mail address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen, in the green column, click "Update My Account." You will be able to make the necessary changes. Please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: mmcmahon@drvc.org; amendoza-cantos@drvc.org; jwinter@drvc.org; pditomasso@drvc.org

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, January 4th • SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES	4 - 6 PM Atrium
Tuesday, January 5th • IN STITCHES	10 AM Atrium
Thursday, January 7th • RCIA	7 PM Fr. Joe Room

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello everyone!
Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games? 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! 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. **Our next meeting will be on January 10th!**

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 Allie Roecklein, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, at hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com or call the parish office. Thank you!



Christmas Flowers in Honor/Memory of...

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



JM & JJ SULLIVAN
HARTNAGLE FAMILY
SULLIVAN FAMILY
MUNKTON FAMILY
SALVATORE CASTRONOVO
VINCENZA CASTRONOVO
THEODORE J. KOERICK
MARIE KOERICK
HENRY & LILLIAN BETZ
FRED & DOLORES SCHANTZ
EUGENE HARTE
CATHERINE HARTE
MICHAEL JAMES HARTE
MARGARET ALBRIGHT
KATHY RIVERS
MARTHA VETTER
DOROTHY RIVERS
SUSAN MANUEL
WILLIAM LEMOROCCO

JOHN CATHERALL
PETER DEVITO
RALPH DESTEFANO
GERTRUDE COGLIANO
JULIA MALEK
MARIAN COMMISSO
ANN MARIE KALISKY
ANNE RUDNICKI
EDWARD RUDNICKI
ELIZABETH SHEA
LOUIS & ELIZABETH MANFREDO
RICHARD MANFREDO
LAWRENCE MANFREDO
ANNA & JOHN LONGOBARDI
ANTOINETTE & JOSEPH MANFREDO
MARIA SPADOLA
NICHOLAS ARMENTI
CARMELA GUGLIELMO
FONDA FAMILY

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MARYANN SAGGIO
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WILLIAM MACCARO
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