

# *The Parish of the Holy Cross*

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +  
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**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**Come and pray with us!**

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 17, 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.)

# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net

## PASTORAL TEAM

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:

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

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 17th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Catherine Holzmann & Liz Shea  
**Tue.** Gerald Losquadro (living) & Maureen O'Malley (living)  
**Wed.** Mary Stevenson  
**Thu.** Fr. Jim McNamara (living) & Parish of the Holy Cross

### Saturday, January 23rd, 5 PM Mass

Ann Keena, Gennaro Cangiano, Catherine Henry

### Sunday, Jan. 24th, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**8:00 AM** People of the Parish  
**9:30 AM** Liz Shea  
**11:30 AM** Joseph Napolitano, Cassidy Anne Flood, William Henry Marlow



### *Scripture Readings for January 24, 2021*



+ *Jonah 3:1-5, 10*  
+ *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*  
+ *Mark 1:14-20*

# BACK TO ORDINARY TIME

*by Father Michael*

The liturgical calendar says we are back in what we call Ordinary Time. Most areas of life feel anything but ordinary these days. It feels like we are at crossroads between hope for the future but struggles at the moment. We continue to move forward with our focus on leaving behind many of the challenges that have been part of these past months. Remain patient and strong, be safe, and hope in the Lord.

Sometimes the behind-the-scenes workings of life in the Church can get crazy. The company that sends out our donation envelopes also sends out the mailings regarding schedules for our major Holy Days. We initially received word that the deadline for our Holy Week and Easter schedule was December 20. (That tends to be a quiet time of year!) When we objected that we couldn't possibly know what we were doing so early, we were given an extension of a few weeks. In all likelihood we will simply need to say, check our bulletin and website for information as we draw nearer to those days. We are certainly hopeful that this year we will be in far better shape than last year, but I am not yet willing to commit to putting our schedule in writing. Let me know if anyone has a crystal ball I can borrow.

Mrs. Kelley Mowat is our new Coordinator of Parish Outreach. She was hired in October. During November and December she worked with MaryAnne McCulloch during the busiest days for Outreach: Thanksgiving and Christmas. Now that MaryAnne has retired, Kelley coordinates the office by herself. You may have seen her name the past few weeks in the bulletin, but you don't yet know the face. Kelley will briefly introduce herself next weekend at all the Masses. We are delighted to have Kelley on board with us. She will continue the good work of Outreach, and she brings a wealth of enthusiasm.

When I have free time in my office, I like watching random videos on YouTube. I particularly enjoy ones that are travel related. Did you know it takes a crew and staff of 190 to maintain a sidelined cruise ship even without a single passenger on board? It is sad to see how many cruise ships and 747s have been sent to the scrap yard because of the pandemic. What is even sadder is the lost jobs that also went by the wayside. It's hard to watch even fun things without being reminded that we are in tough times. We continue to work our way through choppy waters. Be patient and kind to one another so that ordinary moments may become holy. God is lovingly present in the extraordinary, but also in the moments that are quite ordinary.

# PARISH NEWS

## Special Collections

This weekend we will be collecting for our **Regional School Support**. We thank you for your support of this important collection!



## Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses

### January 23rd/24th



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

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, January 18th, for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will be a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

## Remember "Kevin Bacon"

Don't forget to feed "Kevin Bacon" your quarters when you come to Mass on Sundays! Your donation benefits Heifer International.



## 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 24th from 6 to 8PM!**

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](mailto:hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com) or call the parish office.

A statement of your contributions to Holy Cross for the year 2020 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 a basket in the atrium or email [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for  
your support!**

# LITURGY BYTES

## Winter Ordinary Time



This year there are only five Sundays of Ordinary Time between the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and Ash Wednesday. You might wonder what determines the length of this winter pause. Actually, it is the date for Easter. Thus, that's why we have five weeks in Winter Ordinary Time this year and not six like last year! So, as we look around the Church, we notice that the beauty of the Christmas season is leaving our worship space and, once again, the green coloring is before us. During Ordinary Time, let us pray that God will direct our actions so that we may abound in good works even during these uncertain COVID days of winter.

This weekend we hear in the first Reading from Samuel and in the Psalm response, the ever-popular phrase: "Here I am Lord." We all are probably just as familiar with the hymn, "Here I am, Lord" written by Dan Schutte and sung in most parishes for many years. Even though I have many favorite Church hymns, this one is high on my list because the words inspire me and become part of my prayer. Today's Gospel shows us John the Baptist initiating others to follow Jesus. I often think how we would respond if we were there. Where might we see Jesus staying today? Perhaps, in our own homes, neighborhoods, or places of employment.

Question to ponder: ***What does following Him as a disciple mean for us?***

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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:mmcmahon@drvc.org); [amendoza-cantos@drvc.org](mailto:amendoza-cantos@drvc.org); [jwinter@drvc.org](mailto:jwinter@drvc.org); [pditomasso@drvc.org](mailto:pditomasso@drvc.org)

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

## MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Monday, January 18th</b> • MORNING MASS (The Parish Office is closed for the holiday.)	9 AM Worship Area
<b>Thursday, January 21st</b> • RCIA	7 PM Fr. Joe Room
<b>Sunday, January 24th</b> • BAPTISMS	1 PM Worship Area

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille is a Lifeline for Married Couples

*Another marriage saving Retrouvaille weekend will be offered January 22-24*

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse?

Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped thousands of couples worldwide experiencing ALL TYPES of marital difficulties.

For confidential information about the Retrouvaille program, or to register for the upcoming weekend that begins on Friday, January 22, 2021, please call 1-800-470-2230, and you will be connected directly and confidentially to a couple from Long Island/Metro Retrouvaille who can help.

**Location:** Marriott Melville Long Island, 1350 Walt Whitman Road, Melville, NY 11747

## LET US PRAY

### A Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just:

You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith. Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility, and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

## Catholic Faith Network

**"Religion and Rock"** - a nationally syndicated, 60 minute, classic rock program with Msgr. Jim Vlaun for over 30 years! R&R airs every Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB-FM 102.3 FM or 95.3 FM and Saturday evenings at 11PM and Sunday evenings at 7 PM on "The Catholic Channel" on Sirius/XM channel 129!

Questions or comments? Email [ReligionandRock@CFNtv.org](mailto:ReligionandRock@CFNtv.org)



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