

# The Parish of the Holy Cross

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## LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



### Jesus Calls the First Disciples

## Come and pray with us!

### 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 24, 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!

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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

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

Jo Barry  
Claire Becker  
Ann Callari  
Ann Egan  
Sienna Fricke  
Phil Graziose  
Debbie Jablinowski  
Chuck Madden  
Joseph Santamaria  
Marlene Starr  
Doreen Velkas

Kathy Barry  
Patricia Becker  
Manuela Diaz  
Jim Emerson  
Jeanne Gallo  
Bob Grieco  
Gerald Losquadro  
Olivia Melia  
Barbara Sherry  
David 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](mailto:pothc@optonline.net).

## Mass Intentions Schedule



### Week of January 24th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Joel Rivera (living)  
Tue. Victor Lamarque  
Wed. Julia Bazik  
Thu. Allan Cacace

### Saturday, January 30th, 5 PM Mass

Kevin James McVea, Edward Lennon

### Sunday, Jan. 31st, 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
9:30 AM Maron Brady, Giuseppe Pellitteri,  
Salvatore Pistoia, Dominick J. Pizzurro,  
Sara Connor  
11:30 AM Pauline Boccio

### *Scripture Readings for January 31, 2021*



- + Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- + 1 Corinthians 7:32-35
- + Mark 1:21-28

# JANUARY JOTTINGS

*by Father Michael*

This column is being written on Monday. I, like many others, pray that the Inauguration on Wednesday will be a peaceful event throughout our Nation.

During the '90s and '00s there was a psychologist who had a radio call-in show that I listened to regularly. I found Dr. Joy Browne to be a woman of great common sense and wisdom. If a caller asked about seeking resolution to a conflict within a family or a relationship, she would often ask a single question, "Do you want to be right about the dispute, or do you want to solve the problem?" (I have shared this with you already in at least a few homilies, but it may bear repeating now.) Most of the time the caller would respond, "both." She would quickly point out that rarely can you have both, so put aside the need to be right and to point a finger at who is wrong. Rather, work on the issues at hand. I often use this advice in the counseling situations I have. I believe it is sound wisdom, and it can easily be applied to wider circumstances.

We are a people who have a truckload of problems and issues to address. Very little will be gained by looking to name who is right and who is wrong. We need to work together to focus on the problems before us. We pray that this perspective will grow in the hearts of all those in positions of leadership, in every office, and on both sides of the aisle. Beyond what "they" do, we need to desire that same wisdom in our own hearts. This is the path that Jesus walked. We need to seek that same way of life.

This week was the third anniversary of my mom's death. For reasons I cannot completely explain, I think this was the hardest one yet. The days before my mom died, things got chaotic trying to maintain the care she needed at home. Many of those painful memories came back to me. But then all of that was balanced with a deep sense that she was truly at peace when I visited the cemetery. Two weeks ago, I awoke in the middle of the night with a tremendous feeling that my mom is abundantly happy. Not sure how these things work, but the feelings are real. I know the emotions I feel are rooted in a deep love. Absence of a loved one will always tug on the heart strings. It is faith that gives great strength even in the midst of trying times. What a precious gift that is.

There is a band of squirrels that I think are forming a gang outside my house. Most of the time squirrels seem to be pretty solitary critters. Occasionally, you may see one chasing another. But there is a group of five or six that are regularly running around outside my front door. If I'm late for Mass one day, you may want to send a rescue mission up to the house; bring plenty of acorns.

# PARISH NEWS

## Parish Outreach

Holy Cross Outreach will be adding night hours starting **February 1, 2021**. Our new hours will be as follows:

Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 10AM-3PM  
Tuesday: 1:30PM-6:30PM

Thank you for all your support of this ministry!

**Matthew 25:40** "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

## Celebrants for Next Weekend



### January 30th/31st

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

## 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. Here are our upcoming events:

**Sunday, January 24: We will be meeting from 6 to 8PM!**

**Sunday, January 31: Join us for another fun meeting 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

## Longing for Jesus



As we wait for freer moments and life as we knew it to return, I cannot help remembering the longings I experienced when the church was not open for Mass. Please keep in mind, this is in no way meant to point fingers at those watching Mass from home and not having the opportunity to receive Holy Communion at this time. Today, I am focusing on receiving Our Lord in the Eucharist and what a privileged moment that is.

During the pandemic, for so many, the live streamed Mass has been an important connection to our spiritual life, and also a link to our parish family. I have heard families being vigilant in gathering everyone around the TV each week to watch the Mass – from the youngest infant to the family pets. Some have reported how this weekly occurrence is seen as a priority for their family. Even though we hope that these same families will, once again, join us in person, we should be hopeful they are embracing the importance of what that “one hour” a week truly means to each of us. I know we have gained some new faces through this HCTV experience too!

Back in the day, I recall as a child being bored and not really understanding what was happening at the altar. It was pre-Vatican II days, so the only words I understood came from the priest in the form of a sermon. However, the one thing I do remember is, at the time of the consecration, my mother would quietly remind me that Jesus is here with us now and that I should say *I love you* in my heart. On many occasions, once I heard the bells, I knew what was coming next from my mother, and so eventually I would say it to her before she got the words out. Even after I was old enough to receive Holy Communion, I continued to quietly echo what had been taught by my mother.

I did try to pass this on to my own children with the hope they would embrace it and hold it dear to them. For I believe we do learn from the innocence of little children and need to never forget that fact.

So, whether you are home watching a live streamed Mass or in church with young children, whisper that reminder **“Jesus is here”** in their ears and pique their curiosity. Of course, you might have to be prepared for many questions or a “I know that” reply! Even if there are no children near, ponder that realization that Jesus is with us, and in a few moments He will be part of us. Go forth and become what you receive!

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

### *Anima Christi*

Soul of Christ sanctify me.  
Body of Christ, save me.  
Blood of Christ, fill me.  
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.  
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.  
O good Jesus, hear me.  
Hide me within your wounds.  
Do not allow me to be separated from you.  
From the malicious enemy defend me.  
In the hour of death call me  
and bid me come to you that  
I may praise you for ever and ever. Amen.

### *Spiritual Communion*

My Jesus, I believe you are really present  
in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you more than anything in the world,  
and I hunger to receive you.  
But since I cannot receive Communion  
at this moment,  
feed my soul at least spiritually.  
I unite myself to you now as I do  
when I actually receive you.  
Never let me drift away from you.  
Amen.

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Homebound and Hospitalized

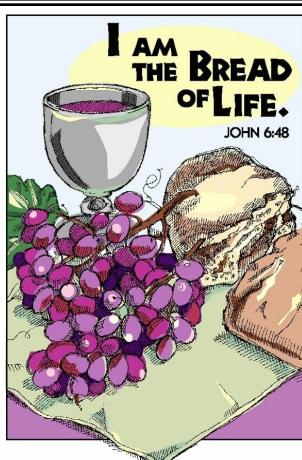
Are you, or someone you know in the parish, homebound or anticipating an operation or treatment for cancer? We in Holy Cross are eager to know in a more personal way our parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized. Often, we do not hear of a person's illness or inability to join us for Sunday Mass. Please call 265-2200 x113 or stop by the office to let Parish Outreach know of these parishioners who are so special to us. We really depend on you.



Parish Outreach sends cards, on behalf of our parish, to those who are ill or hospitalized. Our homebound folks receive friendly telephone calls by Outreach volunteers to keep up the connection and to assess ways the parish can be present to these loved parishioners. At Advent and Easter time a volunteer will visit them and bring a gift from the parish community. Eucharistic Ministers are also available to bring communion to the homebound who desire it.

These are some of the ways Holy Cross reaches out to the homebound and hospitalized. Please help us by contacting Parish Outreach or a member of the Pastoral Team if you know of anyone we can serve in their time of need.

## YOU MAY WANT TO...



Consider a donation of Altar Bread and Wine for a week, especially if your request for a date for a Mass has been taken. Your special occasion or loved one's name will be printed in the bulletin.

Or, you may want to make a monetary donation to Holy Cross in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone living. We now have a Book of Memorials and a Book of Honorees. Your donation will be used to purchase needed items for our church. Holy Cross has a practice of not engraving names on benches and other items, but your donation will be recorded in the appropriate book for all posterity.

Our Parish Outreach also accepts donations in memory or honor of someone and has lovely cards that you can send.

For more information, please visit or call the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 x122.

# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

**Sunday, January 24th**

- BAPTISMS
- YOUTH NIGHT

1 PM  
Worship Area  
6-8PM Atrium

**Monday, January 25th**

- SPECIAL NEEDS

4 - 6 PM  
Atrium/Chapel

**Tuesday, January 26th**

- IN STITCHES

10 AM  
Atrium

**Sunday, January 31st**

- YOUTH NIGHT

6 - 8 PM  
Atrium

## BULLETIN ADS

### 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, numerous 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 **pothc.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 The Church Bulletin Inc. at **631-249-4994**.

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



**America As a Religious Refuge in the 17th Century**

[www.cffor.org](http://www.cffor.org)

The Jews first migrated to the American colonies when they fled from Brazil where they had settled upon fleeing the Portuguese Inquisition in the 1500s. But a Portuguese conquest of their area of Brazil in 1654 confronted the Jewish population with the prospect of a new Inquisition. Avoiding this new threat, a shipload of 23 Jewish refugees arrived in New Amsterdam (soon to become New York) that same year. This small community attracted more refugees and in the following decades, still seeking religious freedom, Jewish communities grew in: Newport, RI; Philadelphia, PA; Charleston, SC; and Savannah, GA.

#### An Independent Spirit Grows in the Colonies:

Over the next 100 years, diverse circumstances and ideas converged to inspire colonists to believe that individual freedom, not government domination dictated by powers far removed from their circumstances, was their God-given right.

Increasing population and prosperity, religious freedom in the individual colonies, the philosophy of the Enlightenment that men had certain fundamental rights which no government had the right to infringe upon, plus the 15 year long spiritual revolution of the First Great Awakening, all came together to form a new sense of identity. By the mid-1700s, colonists had been living in America for 150 years, each colony had formed its own government and people were used to a great degree of freedom.

However, the British Parliament was incrementally passing more trade laws, taxes, and restrictions to benefit Britain more than the colonies. While the colonists had asked for the same political rights as people in Britain, the king had refused. Thomas Paine, political philosopher and activist, wrote,

*"It is repugnant to reason to suppose that this continent can longer remain subject to any external power ... there is something absurd in supposing a Continent to be perpetually governed by an island."*

Paine also wrote,

*"Let a crown be placed thereon, by which the world may know, that so far as we approve of monarchy, that in America the law is King. For as in absolute governments the King is law, so in free countries the law ought to be King; and there ought to be no other."*

(wikipedia.org/history of Jews in Brazil; myjewishlearning.com/Jewish-immigration; loc.gov/exhibits/religion; lotusarise.com, 4/18/20; charismamag.com, 7/31/19)



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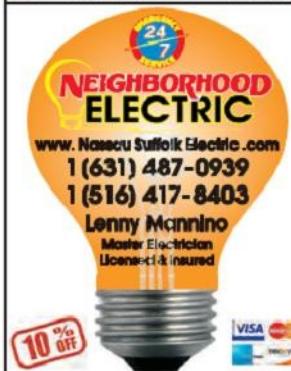
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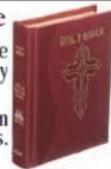


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