

The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +
www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



Come and pray with us!

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 31, 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 + parish@holycrossrc.org

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
(mpannone@holycrossrc.org)

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	Kathy Barry
Claire Becker	Patricia Becker
Barbara Bombace	Ann Callari
Manuela Diaz	Ann Egan
Jim Emerson	Sienna Fricke
Jeanne Gallo	Phil Graziose
Bob Grieco	Debbie Jablinowski
Gerald Losquadro	Charlotte Lynch
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.

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of January 31st, 9AM Mass

Mon. Vinny & Joni Gallo (both living)
Tue. Maureen O'Malley (living)
Wed. Henri-Robert Lamarque
Thu. Rosa Fini Sullivan (living)



Saturday, February 6th, 5 PM Mass

Ruth E. Nolan, Stephen Mattera, Anne Mattera

Sunday, Feb. 7th, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Michael Corcoran
11:30 AM Concetta Brady, Matteo Santulin,
William Quill, Raymond McCartney

Scripture Readings for February 7, 2021



+ Job 7:1-4, 6-7
+ 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
+ Mark 1:29-39

FAREWELL TO JANUARY

by Father Michael

These past months have provided opportunities and challenges in living out different aspects of our faith: virtual Masses, Holy Week canceled, reservations for Mass, etc. Who would have thought we would be dealing with these issues? When all this began, I never imagined that this journey would have taken us full circle in the course of the year. It looks like we will be moving out of the worst of the Covid crisis just as we approach the one-year anniversary.

We received some guidelines which involve a few twists on some of our liturgical practices. February 3rd is the feast of St. Blaise. Traditionally, a blessing is offered with candles held to the neck of each person. This year the same blessing will be offered, but it will be said once, collectively for all who are at Mass. The individual blessings with the candles will not be offered.

Ash Wednesday is going to be even a more different experience. A few weeks ago, the Pope made a short statement about “sprinkling” ashes. Apparently, this is an ancient practice of the Church. This week we received guidelines from the Diocese which states that the traditional signing of ashes on foreheads is not permitted this year. Instead, those who wish to receive will approach the priest, deacon, or minister and a small amount of ashes will be sprinkled on top of the head of each person. This may feel unusual and not have the same impact, but these are the rules we need to work with this year.

I was happy that Kelley Mowat was able to introduce herself at all the Masses last weekend. I am most appreciative of her taking on the role of coordinating Parish Outreach. Please keep in mind that Outreach is here to assist all those who may be in need. The Covid crisis is impacting people’s lives in different ways. There are some who have experienced a tremendous economic impact on the family budget. There may be parishioners who are facing a bit of a financial crisis. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if there is a need in your home. We will do what we can to assist those who may have a need and guide folks to additional resources that may be available. This crisis is not forever. We need to seek help when we need it and offer help when we are able.

I have not seen the deer wandering around my house lately. I recently learned a little fact that may explain their absence. A few weeks ago, I discovered a series on the Animal Channel called *North Woods Law*. It is a program that shows the daily tasks of game wardens in New Hampshire and Maine. One of the rangers explained that during the winter, deer and other animals have an inner sense of whether or not they should set out for the day. If it is extremely cold or snowy, they conclude that they will expend more calories walking around looking for food than they would benefit from whatever they may find. So they just hunker down, save their energy, and wait for warmer days. I suspect that is what they are doing. There are some days I feel the same!

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!

Celebrants for Next Weekend

February 6th/7th



5:00 PM	Fr. Michael/Dcn. Ralph
8:00 AM	Fr. Michael/Dcn. Ralph
9:30 AM	Fr. Frank Eisele
11:30 AM	Fr. Frank

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**.

Outreach Food Pantry

Next Saturday and Sunday, **February 6th/7th**, will be our monthly Food Drive for our Parish Outreach Pantry. The following items would be most helpful:

- Mayonnaise
- Snacks
- Peanut Butter
- Jelly
- Pasta Sauce
- Bags of Rice
- Oatmeal (preferably boxes of individual packets)



Please don't forget to check expiration dates! It will greatly assist the volunteers who stack the pantry with your donated goods. Thank you!

LITURGY BYTES

Forgiveness & Mass



You might be wondering what the connection is between forgiveness and the Mass. Recently, I attended a Zoom workshop with one of our Auxiliary Bishops who stressed how vital it is to make it known about the forgiving elements of the Mass. This resonated with me and onto this paper for my column this week.

The three parts of the Mass that are explicitly penitential are (a) the Penitential Rite (either the Confiteor prayer is used, or the words Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy); (b) the Our Father; and (c) the doxology said before Communion – Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof...” You could probably add in a lesser way the Scriptures that call us to repentance, the homily, and even the prayers calling us to repent.

I know I can speak for myself realizing that I say the same things week after week. How about you? We stand, sit, and kneel, and make the motions, but do we think about it and how it can change our lives?

Part of what we are experiencing in the Mass is a sacrifice. Just as the priest purifies his hands as the Old Testament priest would do before offering a sacrifice, we, as the priesthood of believers, are also cleansing our hearts, hearing God and receiving the Eucharist. The Confiteor is a beautiful prayer said by all present. What is happening when we say those words? The Church teaches us that in the sacrifice, which this part of the Mass is, we actually have an opportunity to deal with the lesser sins in our lives which weaken our relationship with Christ.

So part of our preparations for Mass each week should have us thinking about the week gone by and our actions, and where we might have fallen short: *What have you thought, what did you say, what did you do, what didn't you do that you really need to bring to the Lord?* Isn't it beautiful that at every Mass we get the opportunity to deal with what weighs us down?

Next week, we will focus on the other opportunities for forgiveness in the Mass as the season of Lent draws near. In the meantime, be safe, be healthy and have a blessed week!!

Michele Hahn

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 31: We will be meeting from 6 to 8PM!

Sunday, February 21: 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 or call the parish office.

COMMUNITY NEWS



The Sisters of St. Dominic of Amityville Celebrate Irish Night

Many of you know the Dominican Sisters of Amityville through our ministry in schools, health facilities, parish affiliations, etc. This year, we celebrate and honor those whose daily dedication and hard work foster the creation of a caring community.

This year's festivities will take place virtually on Saturday, March 6, 2021 and offer us an opportunity to gather together for liturgy, followed by a joyful program of song, dance, and Irish spirit!

Please consider supporting our efforts by purchasing one or more of the following:

- A ticket for our Irish Sweepstakes Raffle. Tickets are \$10 each, or 6 for \$50. Extra tickets are available on our website.
- A special edition Irish Night cookbook which includes tasty recipes and culinary traditions from all across the Emerald Isle. Cookbooks are \$10 each.
- An event ticket for \$40, which includes 1 entry into our door prize raffle, an entry into the Irish Sweepstakes and a copy of the cookbook.

For more information, please contact our Advancement Office at 631-842-6000 ext. 246 or visit the event website: www.sistersofstdominic.org/irishnight2021



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