

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!

The Presentation of the Lord - February 2, 2020

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 A.M. (Chapel)

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.

Sunday: 8:00 A.M. + 9:30 A.M. + 11:30 A.M.

WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:45 P.M.—4:30 P.M.

or call Father Michael for an appointment.

WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM

Baptisms are generally celebrated twice each month at 1 P.M. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

WE CELEBRATE WEDDINGS

Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net
 Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (closed 12:15-1:00 PM)

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
 Pastor

Deacon Ralph Rivera
 Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Judith Pickel
 Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Michele Hahn
 Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Tricia Clarke
 Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Mary Anne Mc Culloch
 Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano
 Business Manager

Mr. Brian Reich
 Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein
 Youth Minister

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth
 Parish Secretary

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
 Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone
 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

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



February 8th/9th

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

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of February 2nd, 9AM Mass

Mon. Joseph Nowatius
Tue. Manuela Diaz (living)
Wed. Michael Corcoran
Thu. Henri-Robert Lamarque

Saturday, February 8th, 5 PM Mass

Denise Lamarque, Anne Mattera, Stephen Mattera,
 Judy Keena, Concetta Brady, Raymond McCartney

Sunday, Feb. 9th, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Marie Ulrich
11:30 AM Robert & Maryann Lohan, Jeannine
 Maher, Antonio J. Ballato, Sheryl Minter, Sylvestri
 Spilabotti, Anthony Tortorelli

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:

Kelly Cirino George V. Daly Manuela Diaz
Phil Graziose Bob Grieco Monica Ilie
Matthew Parrella Angela Scalisi
Marlene Starr

If you would like to have the name of your loved
 one listed in our prayers for the sick for 4 weeks,
 please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200
 or email to pothc@optonline.net .

Scripture Readings for February 9, 2020



+ Isaiah 58:7-10
 + 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
 + Matthew 5:13-16

Embrace Your Shadow

by Father Michael

This weekend is the quasi-holiday known as Ground Hog Day. The tradition is, if the ground hog sees its shadow there will be six more weeks of wintry weather ahead. There is always some fanfare whether Punxsutawney Phil and more locally, Holbrook Hal, will see their shadows. I don't think these predictions are taken all that seriously. Apparently, the little creatures have only been about 40% accurate through the years.

As insignificant as this tradition is, it raises an image that can be quite significant in our spiritual journey. A shadow, of course, infers darkness. We often associate darkness with something negative or to be avoided. The reality is, if we want to be balanced, we need to know what our shadow or dark side is and not allow it to control or define our lives. Within our lives, the shadow may be experienced in terms of our human weakness, our sin, a great defeat in our life, or a moment of encountering the cross through suffering or loss. Sooner or later, life will unfold in such a way that it creates a shadow in each and every life.

The challenge becomes, do we run and hide from or deny the existence of our shadow? Or, do we come to name it and even embrace it? In my office, I have hanging an abstract drawing which embodies this idea. At first glance it appears to be two people embracing each other. The predominant figure is quite colorful. It is contrasted by a figure which is dark and shadowy. This is not meant to be two separate people. Rather, the intent of the artist was to depict a single life; the colorful side of the person embraces the dark side of himself. It is the holy person, or some say, the whole person who is able to do this.

To accept the fullness of who we are, our virtues and giftedness as well as our shadow and sin, are part of the spiritual journey. (But, remember, this is how God sees us.) This is never easy to do. The work that is involved in coming to this insight will involve dealing with the dark side of who we are. It can be painful and messy to face that part of our identity. There will always be a temptation to avoid acknowledging the muck and mire of our lives.

This is where we need to trust in what Jesus taught us on the cross. The new life that Jesus promises is not reserved only for the moment of death. But, rather, we open our hearts to be transformed and renewed here and now. There are many who can give testimony of this. Talk to anyone who is in a 12-Step program. They will readily name their shadow (drinking, drugs, gambling, etc.). But, they also recognize the grace of God that enabled that to become the starting point for new life. Perhaps, the little ground hog can remind us to be grateful to how God has already been wondrously at work in our life, or perhaps to ask for the strength to embrace the shadows that need to be addressed.

PARISH NEWS

Pray for Our Military



PFC Anna Brady
Cpl. Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
SA Anthony J. DeNicola
FC2 Lane Dyar
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
LCpl. Michael Palagonia, USMC

We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service. We will continue to pray for them through 2020. Please let us know at any time during 2020 if their service is finished, their title has changed, or you would like continued prayers through 2021.

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

The Bread and Wine for the week February 2nd-8th have been donated by the Lamarque family.

May the Holy Spirit bless the Lamarque family members, both living and deceased.



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

*Ellen G. Brady
Sheryl Minter
Rosalia Muriella
Joseph Nowatius
Joseph V. Pellechi Jr.*

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



Holy Cross welcomes these children Baptized in January

**Cassandra Marie Edelmann
Ellie Alexandra Miethe
Olivia Blu Rosales
Lucas Ryan Saluzzi**

Feast of Saint Blaise

Monday, February 3rd,
is the Feast of Saint Blaise.

The traditional
Blessing of the Throats
will take place at the 9 AM Mass.

Banns of Marriage First Time

Jaime Travers & Gregory Gilroy



Anointing of the Sick

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered this Sunday after the 9:30 AM Mass.



The Parish of the Holy Cross

is hosting our Second Annual

Valentine Sweetheart Dance

For all Kindergarten through Level 5 Students and their
Designated Sweetheart (e.g. Parent, Grandparent, Sibling, Aunt, Uncle,
Godparent only)

Date: Friday, February 7th

Time: 7pm - 9pm

Place: Parish of the Holy Cross Atrium

Cost: Free Will Offering

Best party attire suggested

Come join us for dancing, refreshments and fun!

We will have a DJ, Photo Booth and Candy Table

Please RSVP by February 3rd

631-265-2200 or hcreledaoptonline.net

We look forward to seeing you there!



LITURGY BYTES



Feast of the Presentation

Did you notice the presider wore a white vestment and not green today alerting us that this is a special feast? This weekend we hear Luke's Gospel about the story of the presentation of Jesus in the temple. It does appear in the other Gospels but not in the same detail as Luke offers us. Luke wrote to Christian Gentiles who were not familiar with the Jewish custom of presentation of a child in the temple. The couple were not recognized by others that day, except for Simeon and Anna, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. In this infant, they saw much more. Likewise, we are called to welcome Jesus in those most vulnerable in our society. Do we recognize the Christ in others as did Simeon, who recognized Jesus' identity? By virtue of our Baptisms, the light of Christ burns within all of us. How will WE be that light for others this week? Have a blessed week, and enjoy this winter Ordinary Time.

~~~Michele Hahn

# LENTEN ACTIVITY

## Too Soon to Think about Lent?

While we know it is only February, the Pastoral Team has some exciting news about Lent to share with you. This Lent, in cooperation with St. Joseph's Renewal Center, we will again be offering the opportunity for parishioners to make a directed retreat - a five-week period of personal prayer, guided by a Spiritual Director, beginning the week of March 2. During the retreat, each participant will pray with suggested Scripture passages at home and meet with a director, once a week, at a mutually agreed upon time at Holy Cross. Because there is planning and scheduling to be done, and some financial commitments to be made by Holy Cross, we need to know soon who would be interested. Space is limited. No experience is required - just a commitment to prayer and a desire to deepen your relationship with God. Make this Lent a little different - spend some special time with the God who loves you. If you have any questions, please call Jude Pickel at ext. 116.

Some reactions to last year's retreat:

*"Amazing" "Grace-filled" "Enlightening" "Comforting"*

Please fill in the tear-off below and return it to the Parish Office by February 12:

I would like to participate in the Lenten Directed Retreat: *(Please print)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# COME JOIN US FOR

## Mardi Gras!



**Date: February 23, 2020**

**Time: 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM**

**Place: Holy Cross Atrium**

**Free Will Donation Suggested**

Enjoy food, music and crafts for the kids! We will end our celebration with prayer at 4:30pm. Please bring in your old palms and we will burn them at the Mardi Gras celebration during the prayer service.

Please RSVP to 631-265-2200 ext. 111 or 112 by February 17<sup>th</sup>.

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### MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# of adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of children \_\_\_\_\_

Ages of children \_\_\_\_\_

# 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 some pictures from last Sunday's meeting. We played a fun ice breaker and learned all about discipleship!



And, here are our upcoming events:

- **February 2nd: NO Youth Group meeting - Super Bowl Sunday**
- **February 9th: We will have a Youth Night from 6 to 8PM. Come join us for a fun night!**

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. Thank you!

## ATTENTION BOY SCOUTS!



**Boy Scout Sunday**  
**February 9, 2020, 9:30 Mass**

Scouts should arrive 15 minutes early  
Class "A" uniforms for scouts & leaders  
Refreshments will be served after the Mass  
Come celebrate Scouting's 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary!  
**Bring your Troop/Pack Flag & Stand**

Please contact Andy Bodor and Kim Loh Bodor [Akjl23@optonline.net](mailto:Akjl23@optonline.net) or 516-996-2295.  
*Please let us know how many scouts & leaders will be attending by **February 4** so we can have enough reserved seating for your group. Also, please bring cookies, cupcakes, etc. to share.*

**Save the Date: Girl Scout Sunday is March 8th!**

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Heifer International

So many of our parishioners consistently support Heifer International by keeping our "Kevin Bacon" filled with quarters. It may seem that 25 cents could never amount to anything significant. Yet, to families in many struggling and poor areas of the world, our quarters have provided an increase in their income and household stability.

Those quarters have piled up, and we are now able to spend \$750 to purchase a Heifer and a Water Buffalo.

- A **Heifer** provides up to 4 gallons of milk a day, not only for the malnourished child each morning, but also for the parents enabling them to sell the extra milk to pay for their child's food, clothing, school and medicine.



- **Water Buffalo** also provide milk, but additionally they give farmers the ability to plant 4 times more crops. Fields that once took weeks to plant by hand are now sown in days. For example, *Ambika*, living in Nepal, was able to increase the family income 10 times over after she received a water buffalo and was trained in animal management and crop production through a Heifer International project.



Thank you so much for recognizing that even though the WORLD is a very large place, a faith community in little Nesconset can make a real difference in many parts of that world.

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your future  
START HERE >

United States®  
Census  
2020

## Everyone counts/Census 2020

Why does the Census matter?

It's about fair representation. Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets. It's also about redistricting. After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

For more information, visit [2020census.gov](https://www.2020census.gov)

# CASH CALENDAR

*Happy Valentine's Day*

*Parish of the Holy Cross  
February 2020*



| Sun             | Mon               | Tue          | Wed                                  | Thu        | Fri         | Sat        |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| \$10 Per Chance | 29 Chances To Win | \$50 Per Day | \$500 on Valentine's Day February 14 |            |             | 1<br>\$50  |
| 2<br>\$50       | 3<br>\$50         | 4<br>\$50    | 5<br>\$50                            | 6<br>\$50  | 7<br>\$50   | 8<br>\$50  |
| 9<br>\$50       | 10<br>\$50        | 11<br>\$50   | 12<br>\$50                           | 13<br>\$50 | 14<br>\$500 | 15<br>\$50 |
| 16<br>\$50      | 17<br>\$50        | 18<br>\$50   | 19<br>\$50                           | 20<br>\$50 | 21<br>\$50  | 22<br>\$50 |
| 23<br>\$50      | 24<br>\$50        | 25<br>\$50   | 26<br>\$50                           | 27<br>\$50 | 28<br>\$50  | 29<br>\$50 |

*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

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*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

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*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

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