

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!

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.*



And he went throughout Galilee,
*proclaiming
the message*

Mark 1:39

Come and pray with us!

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 7, 2021

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 celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM; Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass

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 Graziuse
Bob Grieco	Debbie Jablinowski
Gerald Losquadro	Charlotte Lynch
Chuck Madden	Patricia Matonti
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 February 7th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Kathleen Heller (living)
Tue. Denise Lamarque
Wed. Charlotte Wangenstein
Thu. Blanca Rodriguez

Saturday, February 13th, 5 PM Mass

Lucy Follo, Judy Keena, Patrick Keena Sr., Joseph
Gatto, Rose Gatto, Eric Schwarz

Sunday, Feb. 14th, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Iolanda Aufiero, Jack Hough, Giuseppe
& Catherine Pizzurro, Anthony Lordi,
Rose Cinnelli Lordi, Richard P. Canalini
11:30 AM Elizabeth Shea



Scripture Readings for February 14, 2021



+ *Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46*
+ *1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1*
+ *Mark 1:40-45*

WINTER WHIRLS AROUND US

by Father Michael

That was a humdinger of a storm we got on Monday. The amount of snow we received exceeded the predictions of forecasters. Mother Nature always has a surprise up her sleeve. If you were home, didn't have anywhere to go, and had a stocked kitchen, it made for a pretty and cozy winter's day. I may lose the memory of the prettiness of the day once we get the bill for clearing the parking lot. I'm sure that will be a humdinger as well. I am grateful to Chris and his crew from CCS Landscaping who worked long and hard to get our property cleaned up.

On Tuesday morning, which was Groundhog Day, we were still coming out of the effects of the storm, and it was anything but sunny. Yet, somehow, both Punxsutawney Phil and Holbrook Hal saw their shadows. Although you think that would be good news because of sunny skies, it actually means six more weeks of winter. But with the way life has been unfolding these days, that seems to be pretty much par for the course.

I am pleased that weekend Masses have been flowing well without needing to use a reservation system and assigned seating. I am a little cautious as we move forward because normally attendance increases during Lent. Some Masses lately have been getting near to our maximum capacity. We will continue to monitor what happens on the weekend. While we would prefer not to return to a reservation system, we need to be mindful of safely seating everyone and not making anyone feel uncomfortable. We may need to rely on ushers and our hospitality crew to assist in seating folks more efficiently so that we can accommodate all who want to attend.

Lent begins in 10 days. Traditionally, many people embrace some sort of sacrifice or discipline that makes the days of Lent challenging, but also spiritually uplifting. This year may warrant a change in that practice. I'm not suggesting that the season should be ignored. There is great value in somehow making the days of Lent different than the rest of the year. However, the last 11 months have already piled on a truckload of sacrifices and challenging disciplines. Perhaps this Lent there is an invitation to embrace a practice that will be more life-giving and nourishing. Think about what you may want to do as we approach the beginning of this holy season. More to come on Lent next week as we move closer to Ash Wednesday. Have a happy week.

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!

Celebrants for Upcoming Masses

February 13th/14th



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

Reconciliation

Effective February 20th, first Sunday of Lent

Wednesdays after 9:00 AM Mass
Saturdays from 3:30-4:15 PM



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

Donald Everhart
Richard Michta
Michael Severino

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

Special Collection

Next weekend, February 13th/14th, will be our collection for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund.



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



Holy Cross welcomes these children Baptized in January

Chloe Francesca Cianflone
Dominick Anthony Merlucci, Jr.
Lia Vena Merlucci

LITURGY BYTES

Forgiving Elements of the Mass (part 2)



Picking up with last week's topic, the forgiving parts of the Mass, we focus on Scripture and prayer. There are moments in the Liturgy of the Word when we hear about the many meal accounts with Jesus. These meals often provided the opportunity for forgiveness and reconciliation. There are a couple familiar ones: Peter's denial of Jesus is forgiven, and his vocation renewed at breakfast on a beach in Galilee in John 21:15-17; and in Luke 7:44-47 the woman who anointed the feet of Jesus was forgiven of her sins because of her great love.

In the Gloria we pray *"Lord, God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us."* These words are also repeated in the Lamb of God during the Communion rite. In the very familiar Lord's Prayer (Our Father), we ask that our sins might be forgiven and that we be delivered from evil. Directly before we receive Holy Communion, we say: *"Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church lists forgiveness of sin as one of the fruits of Holy Communion: the body of Christ we receive in Holy Communion is "given up for us," and the blood we drink "shed for the forgiveness of sins." For this reason, the Eucharist cannot unite us to Christ without at the same time cleansing us from past sins and preserving us from future sins. (CCC#1393)

However, we need to keep in mind that the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is the Church's very special Sacrament of pardon and peace. We do need to celebrate that Sacrament to restore our friendship with God who waits to offer His love and mercy. With the penitential season of Lent just a few weeks away, let us think during Mass about what holds us back from giving our lives away. The gesture of God's love and mercy awaits us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Have a safe, blessed, 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 email 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 email 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, February 8th	4 - 6 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS	Atrium
• PRE-CANA PLANNING	7PM Atrium
Tuesday, February 9th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Atrium
• LEVEL 2 MEETING	7PM Worship Area
Wednesday, February 10th	7:30 PM
• BAPTISM PREP	Worship Area
Thursday, February 11th	7 PM
• RCIA	Fr. Joe Room

YOUTH MINISTRY

Join the
Youth Group



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, February 21: We will be meeting from 6 to 8PM!

Sunday, February 28: 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.



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