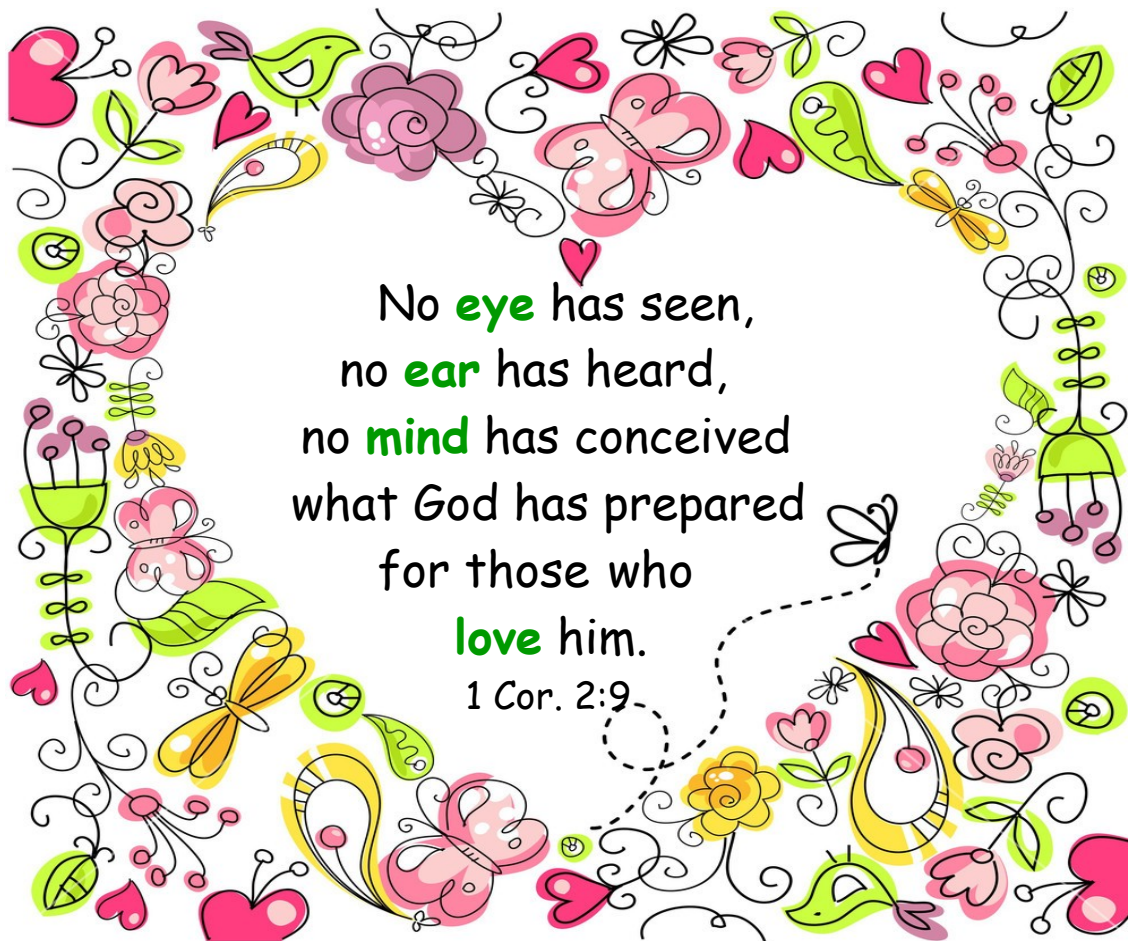


# The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

[www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset](http://www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset)

## LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



## Come and pray with us!

### 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 16, 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 BAPTISM

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

#### WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:45 P.M.—4:30 P.M.

or call Father Michael for an appointment.

#### 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 22nd/23rd

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

### Mass Intentions Schedule



#### Week of February 16th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Sara & James Connor  
**Tue.** Maureen O'Malley (living)  
**Wed.** Josephine Lustberg (living)  
**Thu.** Joan Aruanna (living)

#### Saturday, February 22nd, 5 PM Mass

Eileen Kamine, Rose Grace Arzillo, Louella Murphy,  
 Maureen Horan, Roseann Quintana

#### Sunday, Feb. 23rd, 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**8:00 AM** Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto  
**9:30 AM** Jimmy Dixon, Helen & Walter Tafuri,  
 Joseph Nowatius, Robert Schaefer, Margaret  
 Schaefer, Caroline Schaefer  
**11:30 AM** People of the Parish

### 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**  
**Ann Egan        Jeanne Gallo     Phil Graziose**  
**Bob Grieco     Monica Ilie     Matthew Parrella**  
**Joseph Santamaria    Angela Scalisi**

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 23, 2020



+ *Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18*  
 + *1 Corinthians 3:16-23*  
 + *Matthew 5:38-48*

# Losing a Day, Gaining a Day & Valentine's Day

*by Father Michael*

It feels like this week only had six days for me. I went to bed on Sunday night feeling as though I was fighting a cold. Aside from saying Mass on Monday morning with a very froggy throat and bumping around the house for a few hours in the late afternoon, I completely slept through Monday. While I was mostly unconscious, my body battled whatever 24-hour bug I had. The next thing I knew it was Tuesday morning and I was feeling better, but the previous day was barely even a memory.

At the end of next week, we can say something that only happens every four years, "Happy February 29th." I wish that day fell into the same category as the extra hour of sleep we gain when Day Light Savings Time ends. I know it would be impossible, but it would be neat for everyone to truly have an extra day. Time is the one commodity in which we all experience an equal share. There is always the opportunity and challenge given to all of us to use that gift of time well.

Friday was Valentine's Day, not exactly the biggest day of the year for me. It is one of those days that has become a quasi-holiday. The history of St. Valentine is a bit ambiguous. There is strong evidence that Valentine was a 3<sup>rd</sup> century bishop who was faced with a martyr's death while he was imprisoned. The connection between his life and becoming the patron saint of romance and cupid is unclear. I'm sure his life goal was not to be remembered with chocolate hearts and flowers. I hope those of you who share in the sacrament of holy matrimony were able to use the day to celebrate the gift of love that you share with your beloved. Although the day may have become commercialized, it does provide an opportunity to appreciate that other person in your life who brings you joy and meaning.

Last Friday we had our Valentine's Sweetheart Dance. About 90 parishioners, both young and old, were part of the festivities. I am grateful to our Religious Education Office for sponsoring this event and to all the helping hands that made it possible. Please enjoy the pictures of the party that are a part of today's bulletin.

Bishop Barres had a very pleasant visit to Holy Cross last week. The 9:30 Mass was busy with both Boy Scout Sunday as well as the blessing and distribution of bibles to our level 5 students. He enjoys visiting parishes on Sunday to share in the life of the parish. I'm glad he was able to experience a taste of life at Holy Cross.

For students and those involved in education, this is a happy week as it is winter vacation. Enjoy!

# PARISH NEWS



*Banns of Marriage*  
*Second Time*  
Dina Lamanna & Pete Murawski  
*Third Time*  
Jaime Travers & Gregory Gilroy

*The Bread and Wine for the week February 16th-22nd have been donated in loving memory of **Richard P. Canalini** by MaryAnn Canalini & family.*



**Ash Wednesday is February 26th. Ashes will be distributed at: 7 AM, 9 AM Mass, 12 Noon, 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM & 7:00 PM.**

## Children and Ashes...



Our 4:00 and 5:30 PM services will be more “child friendly.” These services will be shorter, with a homily geared to a child’s understanding. This will enable the children to enter into the spirit of Lent in a manner appropriate for their age.

## SAVE THE DATES



## PARISH LENTEN MISSION 2020



**(4 MONDAYS @ 7:30 PM)**

**MARCH 2, MARCH 9, MARCH 16 & MARCH 23**

**GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT THIS LENT AND SPEND TIME  
IN PRAYER, SONG AND REFLECTION WITH YOUR  
PARISH FAMILY!**

# PARISH NEWS



The Parish Office is closed on Monday, February 17th, for Presidents' Day. There will be a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

## Praying the Rosary

Join us as we Pray the Rosary in the chapel at 10:30AM on the last Sunday of each month. We will pray for our friends and loved ones who have fallen away from the Church. Join us on **Sunday, February 23!**

# Last Call for a Lenten Retreat!

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:

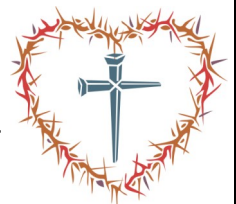
***"Amazing" "Grace-filled" "Enlightening" "Comforting"***

Please fill in the tear-off below and return it to the Parish Office by February 19:

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, and a newly added Balloon Artist for the kids! He will be with us from 2:30pm to 4:00pm. 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>.

---

**MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

# ATTENTION: LITURGICAL MINISTERS!



## The Parish of the Holy Cross

### Holy Week Sign Up Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

**Check one:**

\_\_\_\_ Altar Server      \_\_\_\_ Lector      \_\_\_\_ Usher      \_\_\_\_ Extraordinary Minister

I am not available to serve Holy Week and Easter \_\_\_\_\_.

I am available, and interested to serve at:

**Palm Sunday weekend** - April 4 & 5, 2020

\_\_\_\_ 5:00 PM  
\_\_\_\_ 8:00 AM                      \_\_\_\_ 11:30 AM  
\_\_\_\_ 9:30 AM                      \_\_\_\_ 1:00 PM

**Holy Thursday** - April 9, 2020

\_\_\_\_ 9:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Lector only)  
\_\_\_\_ 8:00 PM - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday** - April 10, 2020

\_\_\_\_ 9:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Lector only)  
\_\_\_\_ 3:00 PM - Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

**Holy Saturday** - April 11, 2020

\_\_\_\_ 9:00 AM - Morning Prayer (Lector only)  
\_\_\_\_ 8:00 PM - Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday** - April 12, 2020

\_\_\_\_ 8:00 AM                      \_\_\_\_ 11:30 AM  
\_\_\_\_ 9:30 AM                      \_\_\_\_ 1:00 PM



## Holy Week

**Please drop in the basket or return to the Parish Office NO LATER than Sunday, March 1, 2020. Thank you for your help in helping us get our Holy Week Schedule completed ASAP!**

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

## Altar Linen Caretakers

The committee that maintains the purificators is in need of volunteers. The purificators are cloths that are used during Communion to wipe the chalices. They are cleaned weekly (washed and ironed) by members of this committee. The time commitment is once every six to eight weeks.



If you are interested in helping out, please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 ext. 122.

# GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY



*Tell your Scouting friends.....All Are Welcome*

**When:** March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 Mass

(Arrive 15 minutes early to sign in.)

**Where:** Parish of the Holy Cross, Nesconset

**Who:** All Scouts and their families are invited to attend.

**What to wear:** Girl Scout Uniform / Sash

Please let us know who/how many Scouts are coming.

Text, call or email any questions you may have.

Girls, please bring a goody for hospitality!

Kim Loh Bodor  
516-996-2297  
akjlb23@optonline.net

Janine Mehlinger  
631-384-1255  
cheecheej9@aol.com



# 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. **At our last Youth Night, we discussed discipleship and what it means to be a good person.**

Here are our upcoming events:

- **February 16 & 23: NO Youth Group Meeting - February break**
- **March 1: We will attend the 11:30 Mass and then visit the residents at the local Nursing Home! Also, this weekend we will be holding a bake sale, a fundraiser for our upcoming retreat on March 20-22.**

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!

# SWEETHEART DANCE

## Thank You



On Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, Holy Cross held its Second Annual Sweetheart Dance. The Atrium was filled with music as our Religious Education students and their “sweethearts” danced the night away. Once again, our photography team (Kevin Clarke and Barbara Shipman) captured the smiling faces of our guests. We would also like to thank Robin and Robert Sokol’s Class and a few other student volunteers for helping with the ice cream, cupcakes, candy table and, especially, clean-up!! We truly have some amazing girls and boys in our program!!

Riley Arbocus

Madison Collazo

Gianna D’Agostino

Daniel DeBobes

Charlotte Farrugia

Gina Lopez

Parker Lyon

Jessica Nodell

Theresa O’Brien

Kayla Sokol

Robert Sokol

(Catechist)

We’re looking forward to doing it again next year!

Tricia & Mary



# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

## Parish of the Holy Cross St. Patrick's Dinner Dance

Hosted by the Knights of Columbus



March 21, 2020



MUSIC!

DANCING!

THE PRICE: \$35 PER PERSON

MENU CHOICES: Corned Beef or ½ Roasted Stuffed Chicken  
plus Beer, Wine, and Soda

DESSERT: Apple Pie or Coconut Custard Pie

TIME: 6:30pm; Dinner Served 7:30 to 8:30pm

PLACE: St. Joseph RC Church, 45 Church St., Ronkonkoma, NY

*Tickets on sale after Mass until March 15<sup>th</sup>*

Contact Information: Charles Tedeschi 631-278-0121,  
Frank Ingarra 631-885-5129, Rick Garcia 631-860-4227

# PARISH OUTREACH

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your future  
START HERE >

United States®  
**Census  
2020**

## Everyone counts/Census 2020 What information will be requested?

The decennial census will collect basic information about the people living in your household, including names, date of birth, sex and race. The Census Bureau will never ask for Social Security numbers; bank or credit card numbers; money or donations; anything on behalf of a political party.

For an explanation of why each question is asked, visit  
<https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Family Summer Retreat Programs

The Marianist Family Retreat Center located in the seaside community of Cape May Point, New Jersey offers a wide variety of affordable retreats for families and individuals. In particular, February begins the registration period for the Summer Family Retreat Programs. Based on pray and play, this casual yet sacred environment provides time for planned activities, free time with family, time for group activities as well as time for reflection, sharing and hilarity.

The elements of Hospitality, Affirmation, Communication, Forgiveness, Commitment and the Call to Serve offer families the opportunity to grow and be nurtured, thereby fostering family spirituality and unity.

Consider taking advantage of this great opportunity to spend quality time renewing family values, making new friends and being in community with other like-minded faith families. You will feel like you are with your extended family. Space is limited and fills up quickly, so act now. For more information and to check out the photo gallery and introductory video, visit Cape May Marianists at: <https://capemaymarianists.org> or call **609-884-3829**. If needed, you may contact our Holy Cross parishioner, Regina Dawson, at 631-656-9212 for more information.

# 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 \$50
2 \$50	3 \$50	4 \$50	5 \$50	6 \$50	7 \$50	8 \$50
9 \$50	10 \$50	11 \$50	12 \$50	13 \$50	14 \$500	15 \$50
16 \$50	17 \$50	18 \$50	19 \$50	20 \$50	21 \$50	22 \$50
23 \$50	24 \$50	25 \$50	26 \$50	27 \$50	28 \$50	29 \$50

*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

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*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

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*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

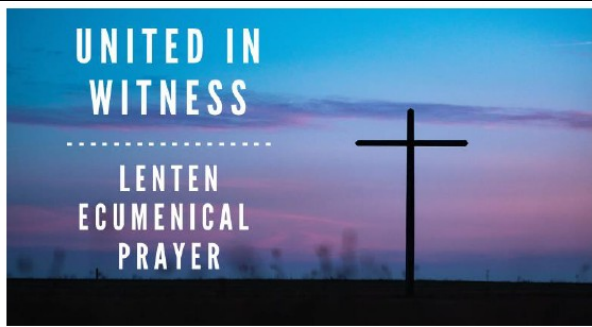
*Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2020*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Monday, February 17th</b>	<b>9 AM</b>
• <b>MORNING MASS</b>	<b>Chapel</b>
<i>(The Parish Office is closed for Presidents' Day.)</i>	
<b>Tuesday, February 18th</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
• <b>IN STITCHES</b>	<b>Fr. Joe Room</b>
<b>Thursday, February 20th</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
• <b>SCRIPTURE STUDY</b>	<b>Fr. Joe Room</b>
• <b>FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE</b>	<b>12PM Fr. Joe Room</b>
<b>Sunday, February 23rd</b>	<b>10 - 11 AM</b>
• <b>REL. ED. FAMILY PROGRAM</b>	<b>Fr. Joe Room</b>
• <b>PRAY THE ROSARY</b>	<b>10:30AM Chapel</b>
• <b>MARDI GRAS</b>	<b>2PM Atrium</b>

# COMMUNITY NEWS



Lenten liturgies sponsored by  
**The Long Island  
 Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue**  
 to give common witness to the Gospel

**Sunday, March 15, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Christ Lutheran Church**  
 3384 Island Rd., Wantagh, NY  
[www.clcwantagh.org](http://www.clcwantagh.org)

or

**Sunday, March 22, 3:00 p.m.**  
**St. Mary's Episcopal Church**  
 315 Lake Shore Rd., Lake Ronkonkoma, NY  
[www.stmarysonthelake.org](http://www.stmarysonthelake.org)

*Materials to engage local communities in common  
 worship, study and mission will be available.*

For information, contact Rev. Msgr. Donald Beckmann at  
 516-732-0045 or [dbeckmann@drvc.org](mailto:dbeckmann@drvc.org)

# RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



## They Fought for Freedom

In February, Americans remember the birthdays of two champions of freedom: George Washington, the "Father of our Country," on Feb. 22, and Abraham Lincoln, the "Great Emancipator," on Feb. 12. Washington liberated Americans from British tyranny and Lincoln liberated slaves from bondage.

Historians have called George Washington the "Indispensable Man" for his role in the fight for freedom and creation of the United States of America. One congressman's eulogy supports this title with these memorable words: *"First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen, ...Pious, just, humane, temperate, and sincere; uniform, dignified, and commanding ..."*

The U.S. Senate official message read:  
*"Let his countrymen consecrate the memory of the heroic general, the patriotic statesman and the virtuous sage. His example is now complete, and it will teach wisdom and virtue ... not only in the present age, but in future generations, as long as our history shall be read."<sup>(1)</sup>*

Abraham Lincoln issued an executive order, the **Emancipation Proclamation**, Jan. 1, 1863, which changed the legal status under federal law of more than 3.5 million African Americans in the Confederate states from slave to free. The Proclamation broadened the goals of the Civil War, making the freedom of slaves an explicit goal of the Union war effort and one of the two primary war goals. To ensure the abolition of slavery in all of the U.S., Lincoln pushed for passage of the Thirteenth Amendment and insisted that Reconstruction plans for the Southern states require abolition in new state constitutions.

Lincoln is also revered for his many wise and pithy sayings:  
*"Four score and seven years ago, our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal."*

*"Freedom is the last, best hope of earth."*

*"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."*

([azquotes.com](http://azquotes.com); [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org); [historynet.com](http://historynet.com); [heritage.org](http://heritage.org) (1); [worldhistory.us/america](http://worldhistory.us/america); [cbn.com](http://cbn.com))



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