

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.*



Come and pray with us!

Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 14, 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

During Lent: Saturdays 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM; Wednesdays after 9:00 AM Mass

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + parish@holycrossrc.org

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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:

Kathy Barry
Patricia Becker
Ann Callari
Ann Egan
Sienna Fricke
Phil Graziose
Debbie Jablinowski
Charlotte Lynch
Olivia Melia
Barbara Sherry
David Velkas
Judy Viskupic

Claire Becker
Barbara Bombace
Manuela Diaz
Jim Emerson
Jeanne Gallo
Bob Grieco
Gerald Losquadro
Nick Matonti
Joseph Santamaria
Marlene Starr
Doreen Velkas
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 March 14th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Patricia Becker (living)
Tue. Eleanor Murphy Hezel
Wed. Ed Hau
Thu. James Reynolds Jr. (living) &
Catherine Reynolds (living)

Saturday, March 20th, 5 PM Mass

Lucy Follo, Isabella Smith, James Eng, Anthony
DeVito Jr., Joseph & Rose Gatto, Carmine Persiani

Sunday, March 21st, Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Edith Buckley
11:30 AM Peter Garrambone, Frank Perrino, Alec
Ross, Victor Chersevani, Don Everhart, Phil DeNobrega



*New Life
in Christ*



Celebrants for March 20th/21st Masses

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

LAETARE SUNDAY

by Father Michael

This is the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is traditionally called Laetare Sunday. The word means joyful or hopeful. It is meant to be a change in the tone of the Lenten season, which normally focuses on sacrifice and repentance. This is one of the two days during the year when the Church calls for pink or rose colored vestments, although purple may still be used. As this color is used infrequently, many parishes do not have vestments in this color. Up to this time, Holy Cross has never had rose colored vestments. However, this year that has changed. Many of us fondly remember Liz Shea who worked in our Religious Education Office for years as well as served as our Business Manager. Liz passed away in December, 2020. Her siblings asked if there was anything the parish needed in terms of celebrating the liturgy. It was suggested that we could use rose colored vestments, and they thought that was a great idea. The beautiful vestments Deacon Ralph and I are wearing this weekend were a gift from her family. We are most grateful for their generosity, and we will lovingly remember Liz whenever they are used.

The second weekend of March last year is when everything began to dramatically change. By that time, Mass attendance was starting to decline. On March 15, I asked Vincent Matula to sit in the front row to live stream the 11:30 Mass. I thought we might need to do that “for a few weeks.” Little did I realize, that was the birth of “HCTV.” Who would have known we were beginning to enter what will probably be one of the greatest challenges of our life? All of us suddenly had to adapt to new ways of life: public Masses cancelled, working from home, virtual classrooms, masks, quarantines, etc. Gratefully, it looks like the worst is behind us. I think all of us have come to appreciate life, loved ones, and ordinary activities more than ever before. There are many who still carry painful scars from all that has happened in these past months. I pray that this Easter will be a time for celebrating new life in a way we have never quite experienced.

We received guidelines from the Diocese for celebrating Holy Week this year. The good news is we will be able to have Holy Week. Palms will be distributed on Palm Sunday, and many of the traditional practices of Holy Week will take place. There will be some changes, such as not washing feet on Holy Thursday, but all things considered, we are in a much better place. More detailed information will be forthcoming. For those on our mailing list, you should have received a schedule of Holy Week celebrations in this week’s mail. Have a blessed week.



Scripture Readings for March 21, 2021

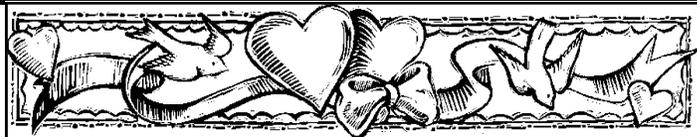
+ *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

+ *Hebrews 5:7-9*

+ *John 12:20-33*

PARISH NEWS

The Bread and Wine for the week March 14 - 20 have been donated in honor of Sister Preenika Dabrera for her intentions.



Banns of Marriage - Third Time
Stefanie Bottoni & Robert Antola

Gluten Free Hosts

For parishioners who have Celiac Disease or a gluten sensitivity, Holy Cross has gluten free hosts. If you would like to receive a gluten free host during Communion, please inform the Sacristan prior to Mass.

Easter Mass Intentions

*In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Easter Masses, there are **prayer cards** in the atrium on which to write your special intentions. These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Easter Masses.*



Hearing Devices

For parishioners who have difficulty hearing, Holy Cross has individual devices which can amplify sound. They are simple to use and work for those who wear hearing aids and those who do not. If you are interested in using one of these devices, please see the Sacristan or an Usher prior to Mass.

Special Collections

This weekend our parish will take up the **Catholic Relief Services** collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad.

Next weekend we will be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund.

Thank you for your support of these important collections!



Remember "Kevin Bacon"

Don't forget to feed "Kevin Bacon" your quarters when you come to Mass on Sundays! Your donation benefits Heifer International.



REFLECTION FROM A PARISHIONER

I Give My Life Away (Week 4)

by Marc Ricciardi

Last year at this time, I was faithfully attending Sunday Mass and happily teaching my literature courses at St. Joseph's College. Then in an instant everything changed. The first feeling was one of anger, of loss, of isolation, a real sense of crisis; cut off from the Church on a sacramental level was difficult: not being able to attend Mass, not receiving the Eucharist, no Sacrament of Reconciliation. To a certain extent, I felt my lifeline with the Divine was put on hold or, at least, deactivated. But then, in the midst of that seeming absence, I remembered something Fulton Sheen once said towards the end of his life, "Christendom is over, but not Christ." The Sacramental Christ might be temporarily suspended, but my relationship with him definitely was not. In fact, as I moved past fear and insecurity, I realized and remembered that Yes, Christ moves through the sacraments but beyond them as well, if he so chooses, and if necessity dictates. I remember a parish priest once telling me during a time of crisis to "Give Jesus some common sense, please."

And then I began to experience other ways of encountering Christ, for in the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, "Christ plays in ten thousand places," and realizing that whatever I previously took for granted as always being there, took on a deeper, greater dimension. Christ, literally, had to walk with me, by me, alongside me, step by step, through loss, fear, and discouragement, and that's where consolation came in, knowing that the Divine Mercy is not only something that comforts and consoles during times of prosperity and peace but, even more importantly, during moments of desolation and despondency.

Yes, I was experiencing my own *Dark Night of the Soul*, but Christ was in it with me.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer affirmed that we must "stand side by side with Jesus our unseen Brother, bearing like him the image of God." And once I recognized that Christ was keeping stride with me or me with him, I understood that my faith, my Catholicity, my belief hadn't really disappeared but took on a different life, a new life, and that I couldn't put myself on pause waiting for the old life to begin again but had to live out the new life now, in the midst of potential death and darkness. And in some strange way, fear became a bit less present, and the unknown a little less formidable.



I recalled that striking and haunting image of Pope Francis invoking Christ's Mercy in a darkening and empty St. Peter's Square, reminding us from the Gospel of Mark of Christ asleep in a boat during a storm, his apostles crying out, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And Jesus, waking up, rebuking the wind and stilling the sea, and reprimanding them with a "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" That image served as a potent reminder for me that Yes, through the storm, amid the cataclysm, it does seem that, at times, Christ is asleep in the boat, but isn't it good enough just to know that at least He's in there with you?

SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR LENT

As the journey through Lent continues, with its traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and alms-giving, the need for prayer seems uppermost in many people's hearts. In the midst of these uncertain times, it is natural to turn to God as our source of strength and solace. Prayer is our way to communicate with God, but prayer does not always come easy. In childhood we learned how to say our prayers, but it can take a lifetime to understand prayer itself.

Everyone's experience of prayer is unique. How do we pray? Do we recite formal prayers? Do we speak to God in our own words? Are we honest with God? Do we do all the talking, or do we allow quiet for God to respond? Do we wonder if God even hears us? Do we think we're not doing it right? Does our prayer make a difference in our lives? As we try to be faithful to our prayer life, questions like these may arise. And Spiritual Direction could be a good place to turn.

Spiritual Direction is a ministry in which a person (the *directee*) seeks help from a trained spiritual director in becoming more aware of how God is active in the person's prayer and in the person's life. Anyone who prays can benefit from Spiritual Direction.

In meeting with a spiritual director, directees share what is going on in their life, what God is like for them, and what happens when they pray. The director listens attentively, asks clarifying questions, affirms the directee's experience, and helps the directee recognize where God already is.

"Director" is a bit of a misnomer. A spiritual director listens and notices, and helps the directee to listen and notice. The director leads the session, but God is the *real* director, the guide in a holy conversation.

As a child, I learned that prayer is "talking and listening to God." I've grown to appreciate these definitions even more: Prayer is "a long, loving look at the real" (Fr. Walter Burkhardt, SJ), and prayer is "conscious conversation with God" (Fr. James Martin, SJ). Whatever our definition, this is key: God desires to be in relationship with each one of us, and prayer is essential to that relationship. God's invitation to prayer is extended to us every day. All we need to do is accept.

If you struggle to pray, if your prayer is a bit stale, if you have questions or doubts, if you want to deepen your relationship with God and others, why not give Spiritual Direction a try? We are halfway through Lent. It's not too late to change things up a bit. If you're interested, or want to know more, please give me a call at ext. 116. Spiritual Direction continues to be a great blessing in my life. I pray that many of you will come to know that gift.



Jude Pickel

YOUTH MINISTRY

PLANT SALE PRE-ORDER FORM

Customer Name (please print): _____
Phone Number: _____

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4/4/21, ORDERS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE CANNOT BE FILLED. ALL PLANTS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED, THERE WILL BE NO PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CHURCH. ALL PRE-ORDERS CAN BE PICKED UP AFTER ALL THE MASSES THE WEEKEND OF 5/1 & 5/2. ORDERS CAN BE PREPAID, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

8" Hanging Baskets: \$15.00

Balkin Ivy Geranium: Pink _____ White _____
Fuchsia: _____
Lantana: Yellow _____ Lavender _____ Two Tone _____
New Guinea Impatiens: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Lavender _____ Salmon _____
Portulaca: Pink _____ Yellow _____ Mix _____
Wave Petunia: Pink _____ White _____ Dk Blue _____ Lavendar _____ Magenta (purple wave) _____
Wander Jew: (indoor/outdoor-spring/fall): _____
Strawberry Delizz (delicious fruit): _____

Perennials 8" Pot: \$10.00

Astilbe (deer resistant/shade/part sun/attracts butterflies): Peach Blossom _____ Montgomery Red _____
Black Eye Susan (Rubeckia) (full sun/part shade/attracts butterflies): _____
Butterfly Bush (Buddleia) (full sun/rabbit resistant/attracts butterflies & humming birds): Purple _____
Cone Flower (Echinacea) (sun/partial shade/deer resistant/attracts butterflies): Pow-wow Wild Berry _____
Lavandula (full sun/deer & rabbit resistant/attracts butterflies): _____
Delphinium (New Millen Dwarf Stars): _____
Stella D'Oro Day Lily (flowers summer-fall/rabbit resistant/attracts butterflies & humming birds): _____
Hosta: _____
Nepeta: Purrsian Blue _____
Autumn Joy Sedum: _____

Flats-32 plants per flat: \$15.00

Begonia: Bronze Leaf: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Mix _____
Green Leaf: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Mix _____
Cosmo (Sonata Mix): _____
Dahlia (mix): _____
Flowering Vinca: Lilac _____ Mix _____ White _____ Red _____ Pink _____
Dwarf Marigold: Orange _____ Yellow _____ Mix _____
Portulaca (mix): _____
Salvia (red): _____
Petunias: Midnight Blue _____ Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Plum _____ Mix _____
Impatiens: Coral _____ Red _____ Mix _____ White _____ Purple _____ Rose _____



*****We do not guarantee impatiens affected by Downy Mildew*****

Succulents (assorted): \$8.00 _____

Culinary Herb Garden 12" Oval Pot (Basil, Parsley, Oregano, Cilantro, Sage): \$13.00 _____

Sauce in a 6 Pack (2 Basil, 2 Parsley, 2 Roma Tomato): \$9.00 _____

4 1/2" Pots: \$5.00

Coleus Mix: _____
Geranium: Red _____ Pink _____ White _____ Violet _____ Salmon _____
Helichrysum Licorice: _____
Million Bell Petunia: Dark Blue (Purple) _____ Rose _____ Yellow _____
New Guinea Impatiens: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Lavender _____ Salmon _____ Deep Purple _____
Roller Coaster New Guinea (double flower): Hot Pink _____ Red Racer _____ Tangy Taffy _____ White Lightening _____
Zinnia Profusion: Orange _____ Cherry _____ Yellow _____
Gerber Daisy: _____

LITURGY BYTES

Laetare Sunday



If anyone is weary by what they are doing or not doing for Lent, please rejoice TODAY because Easter is on its way! This weekend is the 4th Sunday of Lent! Today we notice the vestments are not purple but rose colored. Let us find joy in the Eucharist as we rejoice in the salvation that the Lord is giving us as we continue through this Lent of 2021.

More and more, the statement “silence is golden and sacred” is taking on a special meaning to me. This week I have been attempting to practice more silent moments each day by turning off the car radio, watching less TV at bedtime, and praying in the quiet when I awake each day. You are probably thinking, what does silence have to do with Liturgy??

What deserves our attention is becoming well versed in times of sacred silence when we gather for Mass each week. All of us are in a world that bombards us with a variety of smartphone alerts, news, and bright, flashing banners demanding our attention and reaction. Frequently, the only “downtime” for us is when the power goes out or our phone battery dies! At Mass, we need to practice more of those silent moments. In fact, since the beginning of Lent, you might have noticed that when we hear the Recessional or final hymn at Mass, the priest remains up in the front until it is concluded and processes out in silence. We need to model that posture, soak in the quiet, and leave the Worship space quietly at least to the front door. There are other moments in Mass when silence is observed, even for a minute or so, giving us a chance to think about what we heard. The more we embrace these moments, the more we will realize the gift of sacred silence. Perhaps you will give it a try to carry over some silent moments into your daily routines this week. Silence is an opportunity to stop and listen, and just observe and listen. Contemplate in our hearts what it is that God is speaking to us and how it is we will choose to respond to a loving God. Remember, “practice makes perfect!”

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

PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply Recipe

During this Lenten season, **Eat Simply** asks how you and your family will be uniting yourselves with our struggling neighbors and with the starving of the world. We encourage you to reflect, discuss and to decide how you will eat more basic meals during Lent as you participate in Eat Simply.

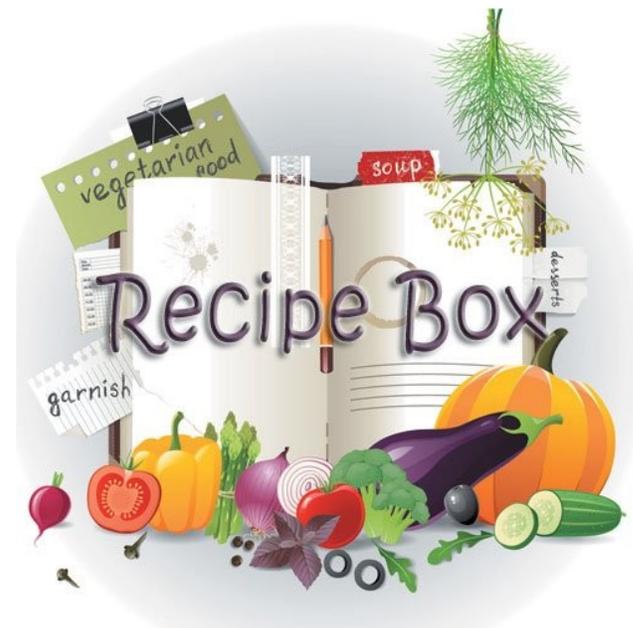
This is a simple meal in my home. What is a simple meal in yours? If you have a favorite "simple" recipe, perhaps you would like to share it, and we would be happy to share it in the bulletin. Thank you so much for participating in the Eat Simply program.

Kelley

Vegetarian Kale Soup

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped garlic
- 1 bunch Kale, stems removed and leaves chopped
- 8 cups water
- 6 vegetable bouillon (such as Knorr)
- 1 (15 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 6 white potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 (15 ounce) can of cannellini beans (drained if desired)
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 2 tablespoons dried parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste



Heat the olive oil in a large soup pot; cook the onions and garlic until soft. Stir in the kale and cook until wilted, about 2 minutes. Stir in the water, vegetable bouillon, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, Italian seasoning and parsley. Simmer soup on medium heat for 25 minutes or until potatoes are cooked through. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Long Island Cares Food Drive This Weekend

Please place your non-perishable food items in the boxes in the atrium. Thank you for reaching out beyond our community to help the struggling on Long Island.



A special thank you to our Level 2 students for kicking off our Long Island Cares Food Drive last week. With their generous support, our Food Drive was off to a great start! Thank you for helping to "Build the Kingdom"!

WHAT'S NEW?

Spring Cash Fling

For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine. This fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish. In addition, many parishioners enjoyed participating in it. Unfortunately, it was one of the many parts of parish life that was lost to Covid. At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing. And so, we introduce the "Spring Cash Fling." This is a similar idea, however it will be offered initially on a quarterly basis.

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through March, April, and May.
- Drawing will be held in May.

Because we anticipate smaller participation, there will be a different pay scale:

- * 1 Prize @ \$250
- * 2 Prizes @ \$100
- * 10 Prizes @ \$50
- * 15 Prizes @ \$25



- This formula was based upon selling 250 tickets @ \$10 each. If more than 250 tickets are sold, the number of prizes will be increased. *(In the event the response is strong, we will resume a monthly drawing as soon as possible.)*
- Tickets will not be sold after Mass. Please use the tear-off tickets below. You may return your entries by placing them in an envelope and depositing it in the basket on weekends, or returning them to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your support!

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, March 15th	4 - 6 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS	Atrium/Chapel
• LEVEL 1 MEETING	7PM Worship Area
Tuesday, March 16th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Atrium
Thursday, March 18th	7:30 PM
• LEVEL 8 PRAYER SERVICE	Worship Area
Sunday, March 21st	1 PM
• BAPTISMS	Worship Area
• YOUTH NIGHT	6-8PM Atrium

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Did you know that the Holy Cross bulletin is printed for us each week free of charge? **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**.

2021
CATHOLIC
MINISTRIES
APPEAL
 DIOCESE OF
 ROCKVILLE CENTRE



Almsgiving in Lent

Lent is a perfect time for us to pray for those in need - whether it is for their material, emotional or spiritual needs. And when you practice fasting and abstinence during these forty days, please remember those of our neighbors who are hungry and consider sharing your gifts with them. One good way to do this is by making a gift to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**, which supports programs that help feed people in our community each year through both Catholic Charities and our Parish Outreach Centers.



“May the Holy Spirit lead us on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ present in our brothers and sisters in need.” - Pope Francis

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 Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish Parish of the Holy Cross - 176 Pledge: \$ _____

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