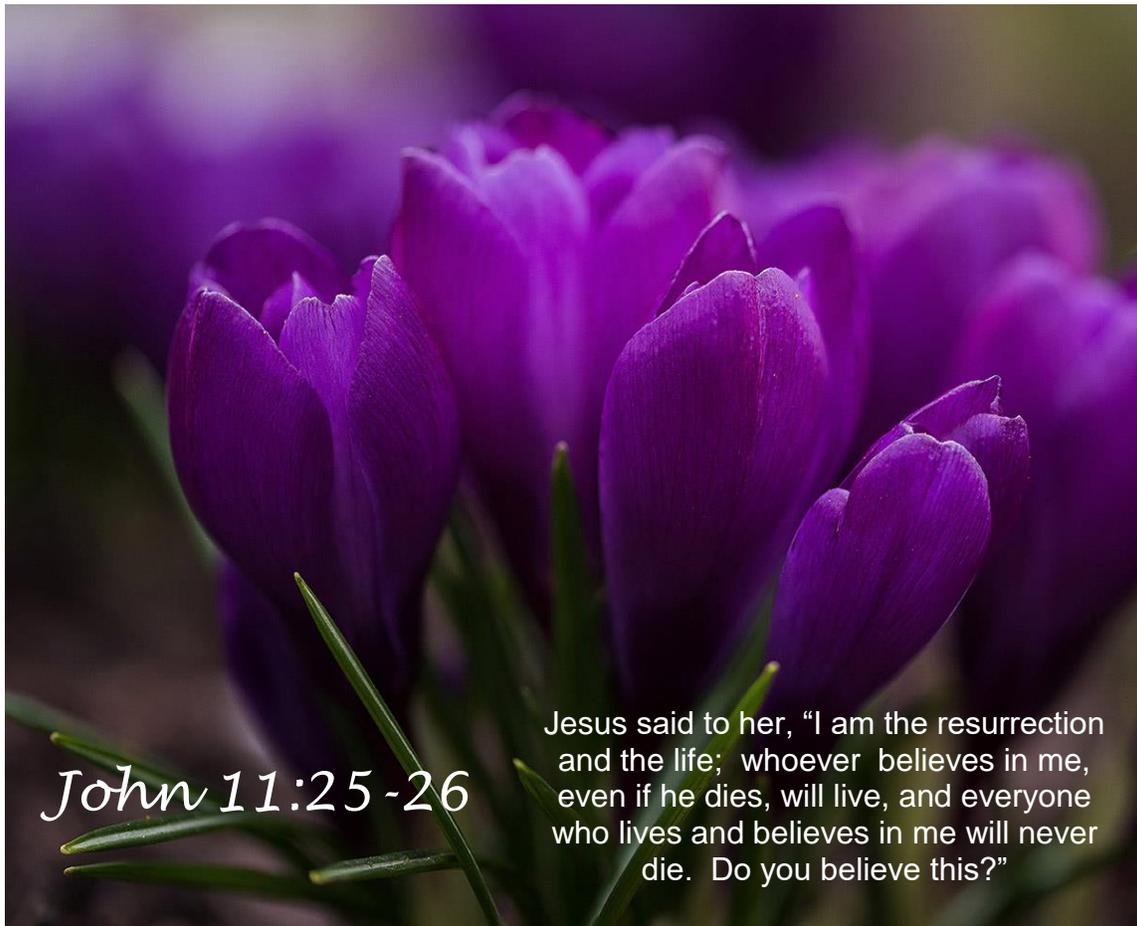


The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200

www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

Come and pray with us!

5th Sunday of Lent – March 29, 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

The 9AM Daily Mass, Monday-Friday & the Sunday 11:30 Mass will be live streamed on Facebook.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net

Pastoral Team

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Pastor, ext.115

Dcn. Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister, ext.119

Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Michele Hahn
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Tricia Clarke
Religious Ed. Coord., ext.112

Mary Anne McCulloch
Parish Outreach Coord., ext.113

Barbara DeStefano
Business Manager, ext.110

Brian Reich
Music Ministry Director

Alexandra Roecklein
Youth Minister

Pastoral Staff

Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister

Mary Pannone
Religious Ed. Secretary, ext.111

Barbara Shipman
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Roberto Maza
Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Please pray for those in our parish who are sick, their families and caregivers:

Patricia Becker, George V. Daly, Manuela Diaz, Ann Egan, Phil Graziose, Bob Grieco, Joseph Santamaria, Marlene Starr, Judy Viskupic

Mass Intentions for the upcoming week: Mon.-Bob DeFilippis; Tue.-Phil & Ronnie Graziose (living); Wed.-Helen Dalamango; Thu.-Stanley Czwartacki

Mass Intentions for Saturday, April 4, and Sunday, April 5, will be read at the Sunday, April 5, 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook:

Jimmy Dixon, Helen & Walter Tafuri, Vito Orlando, Laraine Trapani, Edward Milas, Ron Jensen, Michele Ciampi, Eileen Sansone, Jeff Gross, Rosemarie Ceraolo, Joseph Pellechi

The Church is open for private prayer: Saturday 9AM-2PM & Sunday 7:30AM-11AM with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Readings for next week, Palm Sunday: Isa. 50:4-7, Phil. 2:6-11, Matt. 26:14-27:66

God, give me Grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, Courage to change the things which should be changed, and the Wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a time, Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace, Taking as Jesus did this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it, Trusting that You will make all things right if I Surrender to Your will, so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next.

Amen.

CORONAVIRUS CHRONICLES #3

by Father Michael

Chronicle #1 and #2 were the bulletin articles of the past two weeks. On March 15 I made a brief reference to coronavirus in one paragraph. Last week the entire article identified the wide extent and depth of this crisis that was becoming evident. And now, this will be the unmistakable point of reference moving forward. At this point, I am hesitant to put a lot of practical information in writing because, by the time you read it, there is a good chance it is no longer up-to-date or accurate. Our website and Facebook are the means by which we share the most current information.

We are running out of words to accurately describe what our experience has been. Certainly the words *eerie* and *surreal* have been used more times in the past few weeks than they have in a long time. I urge you as often as you can to keep coming back to the words of our faith: God's promise, strength for the weary, poor in spirit, be not afraid, courage, and hope. It is these realities that will help keep us balanced. All of us will face moments of being "wobbly." But, God's grace will bring us back to center.

We started live streaming on Sunday, March 15. That first "dry run" was a success, and it was easy to do as there was still a congregation. Once we began streaming the daily Mass, it felt strange being in the chapel with no one else. It was odd but manageable. I have to say that last Sunday in the Worship Area was overwhelming. On two occasions I became teary eyed. The starkness of all the empty pews was sobering, yet there was a strange sense of being united. I know Brian and Vincent shared in the power of that time in the building.

One practical tidbit to share with you has to do with our "auxiliary parking lot." That is the small gravel area to the south of the main driveway which is used for overflow parking. Much to my surprise it has fallen into disrepair. A few months ago, when the power line project in the area was underway, large trucks would congregate there as a staging area. I did not think much of it at the time. I did not realize the damage they caused. In addition, there have been an increasing number of cars using it on a daily basis. I have communicated with our neighbors about not using it in the future. But, until such time as we can address the ruts and gullies, I will be putting up temporary fencing at the driveways of that smaller lot. Fear not, this is not a sign of things to come. I assure you the next step is not barricading the main driveway.

Remember: social distancing, calling family and friends, food for our Outreach, support for Holy Cross, and above all, our God is with us. Faith and strength . . .

A REFLECTION FROM OUR PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

Dear Holy Cross Parishioners,

As the days go by and I realize how much I miss being with you all, my mind keeps going back to the Gospel reading we heard on the First Sunday of Lent (was that only 4 weeks ago?!) – the temptation of Jesus in the desert.

Why did Jesus spend that time of self-denial in the *desert*? Why not the mountaintop, or the valley, or the garden? The answer, I believe, is that the desert speaks of deprivation – vast stretches of hot, dry sand with no real signs of life, no one and no thing to depend on. And that, I think, is the point. Jesus went to a place where there was just Him – and God. Jesus triumphed in the desert because He knew He wasn't alone; He knew His Father was right there with Him.

So now we find ourselves in a unique kind of desert. We have food and drink, thank God, but we are deprived of many of the things which we probably have taken for granted: our ability to move around freely, our usual work routines, our gatherings with family and friends, our supplies of groceries (and t.p.!), and even our sense of well-being and security. And we can be tempted to blame, to hoard, to panic, to let fear overwhelm us. Now, just like Jesus, we need to rely on our God who is with us.

All around us we can see how the tempter won't win. Our Outreach is helping more people than ever, and parishioners have stepped up to replenish our pantry. Our public gatherings for prayer are cancelled, but scores of people are praying with one another, for one another, through live-streaming. Through social media and phone calls, we are reaching out and staying connected. Yes, we miss the immediacy of being in one another's company, but the Spirit of God is leading us and showing us that Lent will not last forever and the triumph of Easter will come.

Just as God sent angels to minister to Jesus in the desert, God sends angels to us now: all those who are working to fight and eradicate this horrible disease; government leaders who are striving to keep us safe; pastoral leaders who keep up our spirits; and all of us, sharing our good humor, our trust in God and our hope in better days to come.

We are the Body of Christ. We are not alone. In the words of St. Paul, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (*Romans 12:12*)

Be safe, be peaceful,
Jude Pickel

There is a need for sewers to make masks! If you are a sewer, please check out this link for information on how you can help. Thank you!
<https://you.stonybrook.edu/stonybrookstitchers/2020/03/22/stitchers-a-call-to-action-the-hospital-needs-surgical-masks/>.

LITURGY BYTES

In a most unusual time for us as a praying community, we find ourselves praying inside our homes with tablets, computers and smart phones before us. Some choose to use their televisions for the various celebrations of the Sunday and weekday Masses that are available.

For us here at the Parish of the Holy Cross, we are gifted with music at our Sunday 11:30 liturgy thanks to our very gifted and talented Music Director, Brian Reich. For the past few weeks of live streaming on Sunday, we have heard a sung response to the Intercessions that some folks have inquired about. The response is: "all will be well, and all will be well, all manner of things will be well," sung to an easy melody. This setting was written by Steven Werner. The comments were positive about how beautiful this response and so meaningful under the current uncertainties of life. Personally, I felt that the singing of these specific words embedded into my heart the depth of Faith that we all hold so dearly.

Thank you, Brian, for sending me a copy of the sheet music which stirred my curiosity even more. In very small print on the bottom of the music sheet in the usual area for copyright, I read that the text was from the Revelations of Divine Love by Julian of Norwich. I had heard of Julian and knew a little about her. Julian, to my knowledge, was a mystic who lived a very strict life of prayer and sacrifice, writing many revelations she received beginning in 1373 and thereafter. These were not published until the 20th century. There are numerous books written about her which can be easily found. I also learned that T.S. Elliot's poem, "Little Gidding" contains her well known lines that we are singing as our response to the Intercessions.

At a time when some are questioning how God can allow this horrible virus to invade every part of our world, causing such suffering, fear and confusion, I found that Julian lived through many similar experiences, being questioned as many are today, but through her love of God responded in great Faith in these beautiful words: "all will be well, and all will be well, all manner of things will be well!" Why not make these words part of your prayer, learn them by heart. If you wish to read more about Julian of Norwich, just "google" her name and you will find many opportunities. Be safe, be well, and let us continue to be joined together in prayer and support for one another realizing that we are Resurrection people!

Have a blessed week~~~~~Michele Hahn

PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply

We wish to thank our parishioners for their support so far of the Eat Simply program. Your generosity and spirit of prayerful sacrifice inspire us. We offer several ideas for your Lenten Journey:

- If you gave up sweets for Lent, donate the money so we can purchase cookies and snacks for a family.
- Discuss what a “simple meal” means in your household. Is it soup and bread? Is it a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? Our simple meals can be a gourmet feast for some families struggling to make ends meet.
- Skip your cocktail or dessert at dinner and donate the money saved.
- Use tap water instead of bottles of water (better for the environment too).
- Buy store brands instead of name brand items.



Donations can be sent in through Easter Sunday. The money you saved and donated to Outreach will be used to assist families in our area who struggle, enabling them to provide food and maintain housing for their households. Thank you!

Food Pantry

Next Saturday and Sunday, April 4th/5th, will be our monthly Food Drive for our parish Outreach Pantry. The following items would be most helpful:

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Boxed Rice/Potatoes | Pasta Sauce | Toilet Paper |
| Macaroni & Cheese | Soap-Bar or Liquid | Tissues |
| Tuna | Pancake Mix & Syrup | Sanitizing Wipes |
| Mayonnaise | Drink Boxes & Juices | Purell |

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

Everyone Counts/Census 2020

The census is still ongoing. With the current situation due to Covid 19, it is more important than ever that people self-report online or by phone. You can fill out the census for your household at www.2020census.gov even if you have not received your invitation and census ID number. Just enter your address to begin. You can also respond by phone at **844-330-2020**.



FUN THINGS ON FACEBOOK!

If you haven't already done so, you have to check out Holy Cross on Facebook! Father Michael has a video that he calls the "Parish Broadcasting Kitchen," where he films himself in the kitchen. It's quite funny, as you know Father Michael has a good sense of humor! Here are some comments from parishioners:

This is great! You are making me laugh with your new found attempts with your phone camera!!! All the words are correct for reading when you physically turn the camera to them!

Thanks so much for opening your home to us. I miss your sense of humor and the laughs you always provide. Stay safe and healthy.

This was great! I like the lists on the fridge and menu for the week! Great idea!

Very impressed with your culinary talents! Look forward to more recipes! God bless!

And, Brian and Johanna gave a beautiful concert of songs you're familiar with from Mass that you might want to check out. Of course, they kept their 6 feet social distance from one another. Here are some comments about their concert:

I really enjoyed the beautiful music! So uplifting!

So beautiful! Thank you so much as I get ready for work this morning (essential) this lifted my spirit. Stay safe and thank you!

We miss your beautiful music! Thank you for sharing! God bless!

Thanks for lifting our spirits with music!

UPDATED NEWS AND INFORMATION

- All public Masses (weekday & weekend) are suspended through at least April 14.
- Masses are live-streamed via Facebook, Monday-Friday @9:00AM and Sundays @11:30AM. A link to Mass is posted on our website.
- The Church building is closed Monday through Friday. The Church will be open for private prayer:
 - Saturday: 9:00AM – 2:00PM
 - Sunday: 7:30AM – 11:00AM with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- The Parish Office is closed, but parish business may be conducted via phone. Please know we are here to serve you. Please leave a message and we will reach out to you.
- Funerals may not take place.
- Weddings may not take place.
- Unless there are serious circumstances, Baptisms may not take place.
- All hospital visitations will be handled by chaplains who are assigned to each hospital.
- All Parish meetings and activities are cancelled through April 14.
- Although Religious Education classes and activities are cancelled, our Religious Education Program will continue via on-line instruction. Information will be forthcoming from our Religious Education Office.
- We anticipate that there will be many additional requests for assistance from our Parish Outreach. If you are able to bring items for our Food Pantry, your gift is very much appreciated.
- Those in need of assistance should call Parish Outreach for an appointment.
- Continue to monitor our website and Facebook page regarding updates and changes.
- Remember, Mass is also broadcasted on Catholic Faith Network at www.Catholicfaithnetwork.org , on Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FIOS TV channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471.