

# *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!**

*The Spirit of Truth... dwells with you.*

John 14:17



**Come and pray with us!**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter – May 17, 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 11:30AM Mass are live streamed on Facebook.

# We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net

## Pastoral Team

Fr. Michael Holzmann  
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  
hcreled@optonline.net

Barbara Shipman  
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Roberto Maza  
Vincent Matula  
Custodians

Mary Inghilterra  
Weekend Sacristan

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

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

**Mass Intentions for the upcoming week:** Mon.-Joseph Chatterton; Tue.-Cochran family (living); Wed.-Henry Wangenstein; Thu.-Barbara Balsano; Fri.-John Vorst

**All Mass intentions for May 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> will be read at the 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook:** Mike Cary, Benjamin Reichbach, Mike Puetzer, Maureen Horan, Fortunato Nappo, Joseph Nowatius

**The Church is open for private prayer:** Monday through Friday from 10AM to 2PM and Sundays from 7:30AM to 11AM.

**Confession by Appointment:** Please leave a message for Fr. Michael at 631-265-2200 x115.

**The Parish Offices are closed.** You can leave a message for us at the above extensions. We will return your call as soon as possible.

**Readings for 7<sup>th</sup> Sun. of Easter, May 24<sup>th</sup>:** Acts 1:12-14; 1 Peter 4:13-16; John 17:1-11

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*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 #9

*by Father Michael*

Last Sunday I discovered a sparrow that wandered in from outside. He found his way to the far end of the atrium. At that end of the room the ceiling is very high, and there are windows on three sides. The poor little bird would not come down from the upper reaches of the ceiling. After Mass, Brian, Vincent, and I did our best to convince the bird to come down from the heights, but he was set in his ways. We used tall sticks, the pool skimmer from my fish pond, and foam rubber “noodles” left over from VBS. We were chasing the bird in circles. (We should have gone live with that on Facebook; it was quite a sight.) Finally, the poor little thing was exhausted, and so were we. So, Brian put on some gloves, climbed the tall ladder (which was rather impressive, as he is not fond of heights), and he reached up and got his hand around the bird. He brought him outside and set him on the ground. At first, he did not fly; I think he was too scared. But then he jumped to life and flew into the trees - a success story! I don't think that was in any of our job descriptions. Then again, for how many of us have the past two months not been in our job descriptions?

There is a lot of “behind the scenes” stuff that happens on Sunday that is funny, chaotic, and spontaneous. The three of us have come to enjoy working together in bringing the Sunday Mass to life. But, the bottom line is, this stinks. This is not what Sunday should be like in a parish. I miss you. Facebook and technology have done an amazing job filling some of the gaps, but it is not the same. We miss being with each other. Folks are hungering for the Eucharist. There is a void in our lives.

My intent here is not to be depressing, but rather to acknowledge the obvious. We all bear a tremendous weight of something that has impacted the world. One aspect of this crisis is that it has given us a new insight into scripture (and most every other aspect of life) as never before. Today's gospel reminds us that we are moving towards Pentecost. If you recall, we will hear the Pentecost story which begins with the disciples being locked in a room and filled with fear. It was into that dire setting that the Spirit was first sent. Life was offered in a way that had never been experienced before.

A few months ago, I preached that this was a Lent like no other. A few weeks ago, I preached this was an Easter like no other. I suspect in two weeks I will preach this is a Pentecost like no other. I believe we will know the Spirit's life like never before. Into the midst of our fear, anxiety, and frustration, the life of God will transform the darkness of our lives.

By the way, if you want the undivided attention of the three of us, just wander into the atrium next Sunday and refuse to leave. Don't worry, we will be persistent and get you to move along. 😊 Have a blessed week.

# FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

When I began professional ministry, I was a Director of Religious Education, and one of my favorite parts of that ministry was First Communion preparation. The rich subject matter, the enthusiasm of the children and their families, and the anticipation of the entire parish created a festive, joyful atmosphere. The hard work and commitment of many people, especially catechists and parents, all proved worthwhile when the big day arrived, usually bright and sunny, and the celebrations finally happened.



First Communion day is the culmination of two years of formal preparation for the children. In those two years, we present, in as child-friendly a way as possible, some of the most profound truths of our faith: that Holy Communion, or Eucharist, is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus, spiritual food for our journey, helping us to live like Jesus; that the Eucharist deepens our relationship with God (one form of communion) and strengthens our relationship with one another (another form of communion); that Eucharist literally means “thanksgiving,” so our participation in the Eucharist is a way for us to express our gratitude to God for all that God has given us.

Many parents and catechists often remarked to me that, in the course of those years, they experienced a new understanding of the Sacrament. While their task was to prepare the children, something also was going on in them. God was awakening in them a renewal, a new appreciation. What had become routine became special again.

So we find ourselves now in the month of May, when normally the Parish of the Holy Cross celebrates First Communions. But, like many things these days, the celebrations must be put on hold until we can come together once again for Mass. What a disappointment, for the children, their families, their catechists, and for our parish community. In this time of sadness, how do we respond, what do we do?

Our faith tells us that God is always with us. So, in these particular circumstances, we might ask: What is God holding before us? What does God want us to see?

Perhaps this is a time of renewal for us. We have not received the Body and Blood of Christ for 9 weeks now (!); many feel that loss deeply. Have we ever taken receiving Communion for granted? Does our hunger help us realize the gift Eucharist truly is?

Maybe it is helpful to remember **all** that Eucharist is. We can’t eat and drink, but, through Mass on the internet, our souls still can be fed: When we gather virtually, we are “in communion,” hearing God’s word, raising our voices in praise and thanksgiving, being Christ for one another. Jesus is present, filling us with his hope and his peace.

When our First Communicants’ special day arrives, we will welcome them joyfully. And our rejoicing will know no bounds as we all feast once again at the table of the Lord.

*Jude Pickel*

# LITURGY BYTES

## Words of the Mass – Part 4

*Blessed are You....*



Continuing with our reflections on the prayers of the Mass, this week we will look at the two prayers we probably only hear at weekday Masses because on Sunday, these prayers take place while a hymn for the Presentation of the gifts is being sung. These are the two distinct prayers I am referring to that are said by the Presider:

*Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.*

*Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.*

These beautiful prayers place us in the tradition of our Jewish heritage because they are based on the Jewish meal prayers called “berakoth” (blessings). I am sure we can relate to these meal prayers because of our tradition to say grace before meals. Another interesting point to consider is that the two prayers from Mass begin with **our** blessing God (“blessed are **you**, Lord God...”) while the very familiar grace before meals prayer says:

*Bless us O Lord and these thy gifts.....*

Did you ever notice this difference in these prayers? Until I did my research, I never did. Again, there is much to think about in the words we use in prayer.

Some of the other pieces in those blessing prayers from Mass tell us many things. The “work of human hands” suggests that we cooperate with God’s continual act of creation. We fashion these gifts in another form more suited to human use and for our liturgy. Also, the prayers make clear that the gifts we present during Mass are gifts we have received. Everything we have and are is a gift from God. Because these gifts are the work of our hands, we are united with the bread and wine. We ourselves are placed on the altar ready to be transformed by God into more perfect members of the Body of Christ. At Mass, let us remember how these gifts of bread and wine are offered for each of us.

**Have a blessed week, be patient, stay safe and pray well~~Michele Hahn**

***Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for you have given us all good things and have invited us to cooperate with you  
in bringing all of creation to the fullness of redemption. May our praise of you be  
constant even as we labor to use your gifts for the good of all. May we ever be  
so willing to join ourselves with Christ in his life of total love and self-giving. We  
ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Catholic Charities Job Opportunities

Heroes Needed on Long Island



**Some people work for fame; others work for fortune; but a special few desire to make life better for their neighbors.**

Experienced or non-experienced – All are welcome to apply for our **Direct Support Professional** position to care for developmentally disabled adults who reside in our East End group homes in Hampton Bays, Aquebogue and Southold, LI.

Starting salary: \$13.75/hour with weekend differential. Full-time, part-time, evening, weekend and flexible “On Call” opportunities are available.

Key activities include:

- Transport/safeguard residents on outings
- Coach residents in skills development & administer medications
- Provide person-centered care including personal care as needed

A HS diploma/GED and valid NYS Driver’s License are required. Catholic Charities provides paid training, medical/dental benefits, retirement planning, educational assistance, and generous holiday and vacation time for working 28 hours or more per week.

TO APPLY: email your resume to [jobs@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:jobs@catholiccharities.cc) or call us at 516.733.7000

### **Residential Services Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities Located in West Babylon, LI**

Pay rate at this location: \$15.00/hour. Full-time, part-time, evening, overnight, weekend and flexible “On Call” opportunities are available.

Key activities include:

- Provide person-centered care including personal care as needed
- Household maintenance including meal preparation
- Medication administration, recreation & transportation

A HS diploma, GED or TASC diploma & valid NYS Driver’s License are required. Senior care experience and/or vocational/academic education in health-related studies will be a strong plus. Catholic Charities provides paid training, medical/dental benefits, retirement planning, educational assistance, and generous holiday and vacation time for work schedules of 28 hours or more per week.

TO APPLY: email your resume to [jobs@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:jobs@catholiccharities.cc) or fax to 516.733.7038. Please reference “DSP-Beebe” in the subject line of your email.

# PARISH NEWS

## Painters Needed

We have a few painting projects we would like to undertake. If anyone has a skill in painting and is available to help, please call 631-265-2200 x110 and leave a message for Barbara. Thank you!



## Mother's Day Mass Remembrances in Honor of...



"Lana" Patricia Maloney  
Erin Eileen Ark  
Kathleen O'Brien  
Ann Marie Governali  
M. Eileen Rooney

Kerry Staffelli (Mone)  
Charlotte Albino  
Mae Maloney  
Holly Sullivan  
Heather Williamson

## Mother's Day Mass Remembrances in Memory of..

Adeline DeStefano  
Lillian Brune Tucci  
Kathleen Grebinger

Vincenza Catale  
Elizabeth Lloyd  
Lucille Mazzo

Carmela Terranova  
Theresa Schwarz  
Marion Maloney



## Prayer Page on Our Parish Website

At this time, we are offering the opportunity for people to express their prayer intentions.



*Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ*

*Philemon 1:3*

You can leave a message at the office at 631-265-2200 ext.122 or email your prayers to [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net) . Your intentions will be added to *Our Prayer Pages*, which can be viewed by clicking the link on the homepage of our website, and can be prayed for by others. (Please note: If praying for those who are ill, last names may not always appear unless permission has been granted.)

## Collection Envelopes

This weekend in your envelope packet, you will find an envelope for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Next weekend, will be the collection for **Catholic Communications**. This collection supports Catholic programs to television networks, radio programs and so much more. Envelopes may be mailed to Holy Cross or placed in the drop box in our courtyard. We thank you for your continued support!



**A WORD FROM THE STAFF OF THE  
CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL**

As we continue to work together to deal with the devastating effects of COVID - 19, we want to thank you for your commitment and continued support of the Catholic Ministries Appeal.

We would also like to thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the delay in processing your gifts and payments. We are processing them as quickly as possible during these unusual circumstances. Your support means so much - now more than ever before.

For those who receive monthly statements you will be getting one for May this week. Please know that all pledge payments can be made through January of 2021 for the 2020 Appeal.

If you are having difficulty paying your pledge, please let us know and we will adjust it for you. **If you or a family member is in need of assistance you can contact Catholic Charities helpline at (516) 733-7045.**

**Thank you again for all of your support, prayers and commitment to this Appeal and your Parish.**

Cordially,

*Barbara Kilarjian*

Barbara Kilarjian  
Director, Office of the Catholic Ministries Appeal

Remember, all gifts – no matter the size –  
make a difference in the lives of others.

For more information visit

[www.drvc.org/CMA](http://www.drvc.org/CMA).

If you would like to donate to the CMA, please fill out the form below and mail to:  
Catholic Ministries Appeal, P O Box 4000, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-4000. Thank you!

Make checks payable to: **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

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