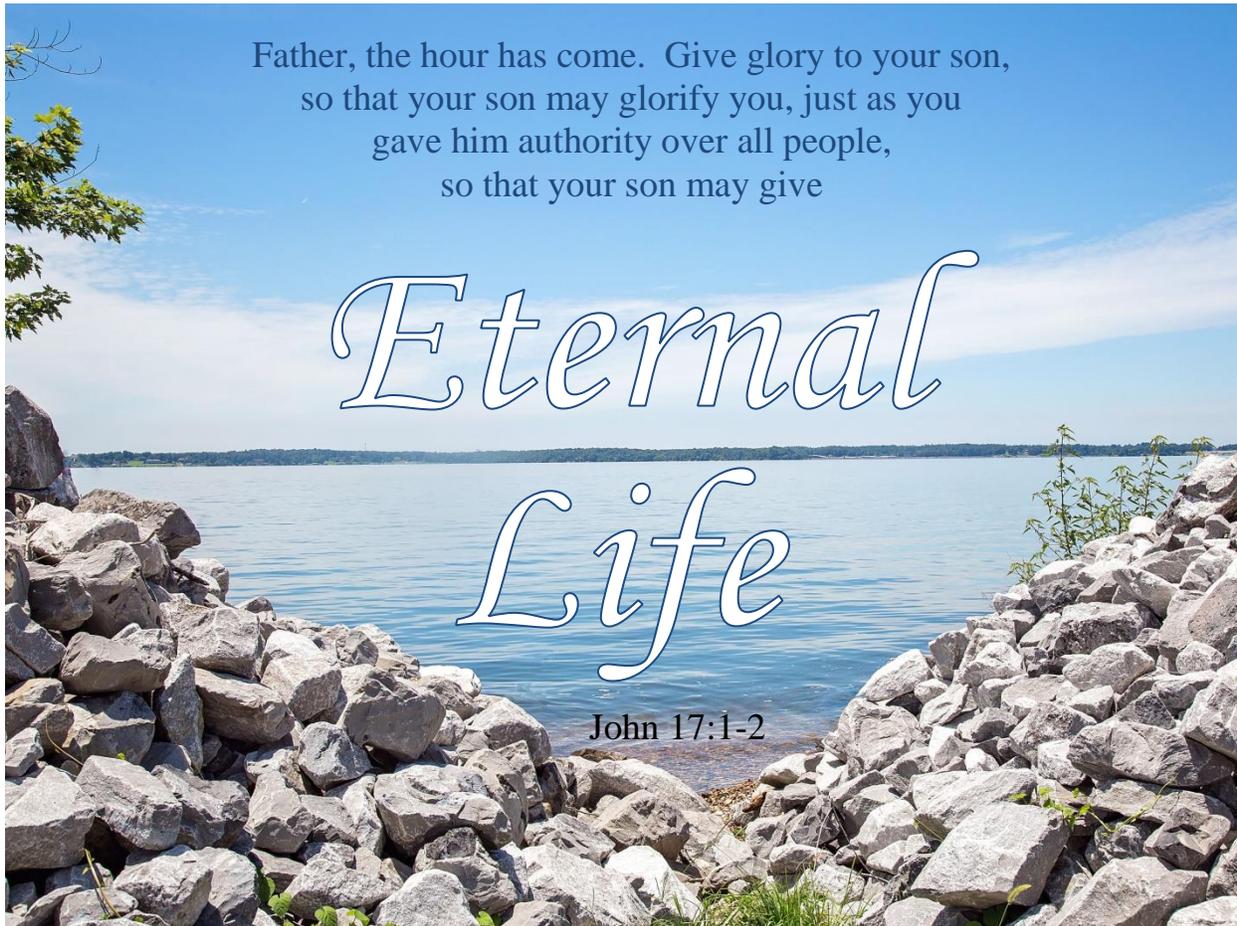


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LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



Come and pray with us!



This Memorial Day, we pray for all who have died in service to our nation, that they may share in the light and peace of God's presence forever.

7th Sunday of Easter – May 24, 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!

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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

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Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary, ext.122

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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

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.-Victor Lamarque; Tue.-Carol Lamarque (living); Wed.-Rosemarie Paganelli; Thu.-Fr. Jim McNamara (living); Fri.-Mary Spiess

All Mass intentions for May 30th/31st will be read at the 11:30AM Mass which is live streamed on Facebook: Anne Mattera, James A. Perry Jr., Fortunato Nappo, Ewa Sypytkowska, Michael Farco, Josephine & Bob Grieco, Mathew DiPietro, Sylvester Florio

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 Pentecost, May 31st: Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20:19-23

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 Chronicle #10

by Father Michael

Right now I should be touring around Germany, Switzerland, and Austria with 39 members of the Travel Club. The highlight of our tour was going to be attending a production of the Passion Play in the town of Oberammergau. This small German village began this tradition in the early 1600s. The first performance was offered in thanksgiving for that region being spared the effects of the bubonic plague. Since then, the entire village devotes itself to an all-day presentation of the Passion story which takes place every ten years. How ironic, about 400 years later, the play had to be postponed because of a pandemic. (It will take place in 2022). The only other time it had to be postponed was during World War II.

This is just one of many events that had to be cancelled or postponed. And, although this was disappointing and a bit costly, there are many other occasions of the heart that have not been able to take place. At this point we have rescheduled eight weddings. We are hoping that First Communions can take place at some point during the summer. Confirmation is also tentative for sometime in the autumn. Sadly, we have had nine families who were not able to bury their loved ones with a funeral Mass. (We will offer those families the opportunity for a Memorial Mass once we open up.) I think all of us feel particularly bad for the graduating class of 2020. So many hopes and traditions had to be cancelled.

In addition to these milestone events, we continue to miss other moments that had become part of our routine. There were many things we probably just took for granted like going to a restaurant and getting a haircut. But, from our perspective, perhaps the absence of the availability of the Eucharist is the greatest loss. I pray for a prompt solution to that loss in the lives of so many. I look forward to the day that the bulletin article will be entitled Coronavirus Chronicle: Final Edition.

The other side of this equation is that I have had many beautiful, prayerful and poignant moments going through and organizing boxes of old letters, cards and photos. Having an abundance of time enabled me to tackle this ever-growing project. I don't know if it would have been as rich of an experience if I tried doing a little here and there amidst the normal routine of my life. This has been a gift and blessing to me.

Next Sunday is Pentecost. We are working on a few special things to be part of that Mass. Normally, we ask folks to wear red to that Mass; feel free to wear something red as you watch the Mass from home. It could even be your favorite red pajamas (I won't tell).

God's Glory

Memorial Day weekend, for many people, marks the unofficial beginning of summer. For my family, it's the time we look forward to all winter, the time when we head upstate to open our house on the eastern shore of Lake George. As I eagerly anticipate making that trip this weekend, (I'm writing this on Wednesday) the response from this morning's Responsorial Psalm keeps playing in my head: "Heaven and earth are full of your glory."



No one was more surprised than I when I fell in love with the Lake George region. I grew up on Long Island, and our backyard pool and Jones Beach provided all the summer fun I ever needed. But a visit to friends in the middle '80s introduced me and my family to the beauty of the Adirondacks, and we found ourselves drawn to return. We did return, renting a house there in Hulett's Landing for two weeks every August. In 1995, we were fortunate enough to be able to purchase land there to build our own home, and it has been our place of relaxation and renewal ever since.

It is difficult to put into words how awesome I find that part of the world. Everywhere you look you see the wonders of God's creation: the mountains, the trees, the flowers, the birds, the animals, the sunsets, the thousands of stars... and the lake. The lake surprised me the most: it's crystal clear; you can see the fish as they swim by. Sometimes it's calm, sometimes it's choppy, often it's cold, but it's always inviting and refreshing. And it is such a sign of life that, even after so many years, it still takes my breath away.

I have a plaque in my office, by an upstate artist, that's called "Advice from a Lake." It reads:

*"Be clear;
make positive ripples;
look beneath the surface;
stay calm;
shore up friendships;
take time to reflect;
be full of life!"*

Who knew a lake could teach us so much? I've taken these words to my morning prayer on more than one occasion. I offer them to you now.

As we honor our fallen military this weekend, I will remember them in my prayers in the quiet of a morning by the lake. And, while I know what a blessing it is for me to have this peaceful spot, I pray that each one of you seeks out a time and a place for your own moments of prayer: a sunny window, a spot in the garden, a stroll through the neighborhood, a walk along the beach. God's majesty surrounds us, offering us peace, hope and joy.

In the words of the psalmist: "Heaven and earth are full of your glory." Amen.

Jude Pickel

LITURGY BYTES

Words of the Mass

Our Father (introduction and concluding invitation)



The celebrant says: ***“At the Savior’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say...”***

Each of these three phrases of the invitation to pray the Our Father carries different ideas:

At the Savior’s command - We notice this in Scripture in both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke – the command that we do it. Even in the earliest Church documents, like the Didache, the Christians were told to pray this prayer three times a day. Keeping in mind that as sons and daughters of God, we are to be in an intimate relationship with our God, realizing how much He cares for us and loves us into this life. Our response to Jesus’ command to pray as He taught us is an act of witnessing to our choice to receive the gifts of life, love, holiness, goodness, sustenance, protection, forgiveness and mercy given to us by God.

Formed by Divine teaching - Jesus’ life forms us in how we should live. The Gospel shows us this very clearly. As believers, we all know and come to realize, our destiny is to be with our Father in heaven. This is what our God wants for each of us, and all we need to do is accept it.

We dare to say - Hmmm, weren’t we commanded to say “Our Father,” and so we do. I guess you could say that we are “bold” to address God. However, our hesitancy is erased because of Jesus’ command. It is the way we grow in our intimate relationship with God. Our boldness simply comes from the gifts of faith, hope and love. The “daring” part is an invitation to prove our courage to live the Gospel.

The concluding doxology...*“For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.”*

This was never part of our tradition when learning to pray the Our Father, nor does it appear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. However, something similar was part of that ancient Church document, mentioned earlier, called the Didache and ended up in the early formula of Mass prayers.

Focus now for a moment on the word “kingdom” which is not something that we can embrace, being accustomed to a democratic society. I am sure most of us realize that God’s kingdom is not marked by land, wealth or having subjects to dominate. God’s kingdom is to be one of peace and mercy for all. God’s kingdom is present wherever people try to live those qualities of peace, love, forgiveness, mercy and care. God is not passive. He guides and strengthens us to cooperate with the “Divine” to bring about those beautiful qualities of peace, justice, forgiveness, care and love. We have learned that if we live the Gospel, we are helping to build God’s kingdom right here. Trusting in our God is all we need to do. It is not always easy to keep on this path, is it? So, as we say these words at Mass, I invite you to stop and think about what is being said, and focus on the meaning behind the words and how we can truly keep God’s kingdom alive.

Be well, stay safe and have a blessed week~~~~~Michele Hahn
WE REMEMBER, WE CELEBRATE, WE BELIEVE!



Celebrating Pentecost

We Want Your Videos!

We are looking to create a video montage set to music that will be part of our Pentecost Celebration on Sunday, May 31.

Please send us your video clips:

- We only need 10-15 seconds of video. We may need to edit some of the clips to make them even shorter.
- Do not include a spoken message as the video clips will be set to a musical background.
- Include images of people, not objects.
- Include images of activities that have brought you life and happiness during these days, things like:
 - The family playing a game
 - Kids making cookies
 - A Zoom family reunion
 - Hubby raking the yard
 - A drive-by birthday celebration
 - “The Mrs” working in the garden
 - It could be as simple as you waving or holding a sign “We miss you, Holy Cross.”
 - Be creative!
- Send them to pothcvideos@gmail.com
- Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, May 27 @ 3:00PM



Thanks for being part of our happy celebration!

PARISH NEWS

Help Spruce Up the Parish While we are Closed

Painting:

- We are looking for help with a few painting projects. If you are good with a brush or roller, have we got a job for you!



Replace Fencing:

- We need to replace a long stretch of stockade fence on one edge of the parking lot. The posts are already in place, we just need to replace the panels.

Please call 631-265-2200 ext.110, and leave a message for Barbara, our Business Manager. Or you can email her at pothc@aol.com if you are able to help with either of these projects. Please note that we will be mindful of social distancing guidelines with both of these projects.

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. 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 **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. Thank you!



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