

The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200

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

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



God Bless America

Come and pray with us!

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 5, 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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Pastoral Team

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Pastor, ext.115

Dcn. Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister, ext.119

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Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Michele Hahn
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

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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

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Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
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Mary Pannone
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hcreled@optonline.net

Barbara Shipman
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Roberto Maza
Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan



Remembering Our Sick

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, Sienna Fricke, Phil Graziose, Bob Grieco, Chuck Madden, Joseph Santamaria, Marlene Starr, and July Viskupic

Mass Intentions Schedule:

Week of July 5th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Vito and Maria Ligabo

Tues. Henri-Robert Lamarque

Wed. Robert DeFillipis

Saturday, July 11th, 5PM Mass

Margaret Bernetti, Joanie Esposito, Ray Henry, Connie Mattera

Sunday, July 12th, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30am Evelyn Loeser

11:30am Joseph Jurczak, Denise Lamarque, Damien Pickel, Patricia Roecklein, Catherine Schaeffer

Scripture Readings for July 12th, 2020

Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 8:18-23; Matthew 13:1-23

Pray For Our Nation

by Father Michael

Normally the 4th of July holiday is marked with fun and relaxing activities. For many people it is a day off from work. Barbeques, trips to the beach and firework displays are often part of the festivities. For the most part, there is usually a spirit of gratitude for the blessings and freedoms we enjoy. This year, in so many ways, is not a normal year. We are surrounded with the reality of race relations hitting critical levels, a health crisis that poses a tremendous threat, and divisive political unrest. As much as we may want to celebrate, there are serious issues that cloud the day.

I don't pretend to have profound insights into what needs to be done politically to bring about resolution. Even on the spiritual level, these are difficult issues and times to navigate. I found this article hard to write. I feel there is a need to at least acknowledge the array of tumultuous issues that surround us. But it is a very delicate balance to maintain. There are probably parishioners who fall along every inch of the political spectrum. There are some who are looking for the Church to be more vocal. Certainly, the dignity of human life and the condemnation of hatred and prejudice is foundational in who we are as a Christian people.

We believe that when we gather as a body of believers there is something that unites us that is more powerful than any political party or cause. We believe the message of the Risen Christ can allow us to be people of one mind and one heart even in the midst of great diversity. We need to allow that power of Christ to be our foundation and our point of reference.

Sadly, I hate to say, I find most conversations about politics fruitless. For many, individuals only want to repeat and emphatically state why their way is right and there is limited openness to new insight or change of heart. There is a temptation to become more deeply entrenched in our own way of thinking and not listen to how the Spirit may be leading us.

I know there are no simple answers. Perhaps we can expand our perspective by moving beyond media outlets that we know will say things we already agree with. Instead we can ponder some of the words our Lord gave us. Do we ever apply images of "the narrow way" or "a voice in the desert?" Do we take seriously his invitation to "follow me" or "to love as I have loved you?"

Pray for our nation. Pray for a Spirit of wisdom and right judgement to touch the hearts of those who lead. However, let us not exclude ourselves from being part of solutions to complex problems. In what ways might the Lord be challenging me to grow, to see with the eyes of Jesus, to change a hardened heart? We pray for our nation and we pray for ourselves that together we become instruments of Christ's peace and compassion.



Whatever Happened with Our RCIA Folks?

Way back on March 15, when our last paper bulletin was published, you may have read short biographies written by our three RCIA candidates (people looking to complete their Sacraments of Initiation) and our catechumen (a person to be baptized). At that time, we were anticipating the Easter Vigil, when they would be fully initiated into the Catholic Church. But then, as happened with much of life, plans had to be put on hold because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Happily, these four people of faith know that God continues to call them, and that this parish family is still eager for them to join us.

To refresh your memories, here is a bit about our inquirers:

Samantha Stephens is our catechumen. She was introduced to Catholicism through her friendship with a family who happen to be Holy Cross parishioners. Being with them, and experiencing Mass at Holy Cross, led Samantha to realize that she wanted to build her relationship with God. Her desire to join the Catholic Church brought her to the RCIA, and she will celebrate Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the 11:30am Mass on August 2.

Cheryl Maher, Johnny Santos, and Kimberly Tynebor are our three candidates. While already baptized, and attending Mass at Holy Cross with their families, all three felt called by God to complete their initiation. They will do this by celebrating the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, Cheryl on July 25 at the 5:00 Mass, Johnny on July 26 at the 9:30 Mass, and Kimberly on August 30 at the 11:30 Mass.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the Church's way of extending an invitation to membership in a living community of faith. The RCIA ministry is one of witness and hospitality. The RCIA Team helps open up God's word, answers questions, and instructs the inquirers in the tenets of our faith, but it is the entire parish community which welcomes, inspires, and supports them. And, while each inquirer benefits from all they receive in the process, the community in turn is richly blessed by a renewal of their own faith and a deeper appreciation of all that they already have received.

Every individual's journey of faith is unique. Samantha, Cheryl, Johnny, and Kimberly have responded whole-heartedly and generously, in their own ways, to God's call. Holy Cross is blessed by their presence among us, and we look forward, *finally*, to celebrating with them.

Jude Pickel

Liturgy Bytes ~ “These “Magic” Moments”



The big 7 precious moments of our lives as Catholics touch us at various points in our lives and are known as **SACRAMENTS**. They can be considered the fabric of our Catholic lives. Many of us (me included) were raised with the familiar definition of sacrament as “an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace”, as our Baltimore Catechism taught. For the next few weeks, we will take another look at these moments of grace in which we encounter the God who wants to be in relationship with each of us.

Each day we are invited to live *alert* to the possibility that we will experience the presence and activity of God in our lives. We could say that a sacrament is a *divine-human encounter*. God’s self-communication is the divine part of the encounter. For the human aspect, we need to understand what it means to be human, to use symbols, and to ritualize. Jesus, fully human and fully divine, is the most intimate example of the human-divine encounter. It is in this broader sacramental context; we place the official sacraments of the Church. These ritual actions, the public worship of the church, articulate what God is offering us.

Did you know???? It took until the Middle Ages for the number of seven sacraments to emerge. At times there were more. However, during the Protestant Reformation, the reformers opted for fewer. The Council of Trent, in response to the Protestant Reformation, settled on the number. The number may not be as important as recalling that the larger sacramental context reflects *God’s generosity and love for each and everyone of us!* Next week we move onto the first sacrament – BAPTISM!!

Have a blessed week, stay safe, be healthy~~~~ Michele Hahn

Religious Education

Welcome to Holy Cross Religious Education

The Religious Education Office is planning ahead to the 2020-2021 Formation Year. We need your help so that we can adequately plan to meet the needs of our parish. If you have a child entering **First Grade in September**, you need to register. If you have recently moved to our parish, you need to register in the parish. Due to Covid-19, our program will be a mix of online and “home based” learning, depending on CDC guidelines. Please contact our office for more specific information.

- Religious Education classes will begin the week of October 19, 2020.
- First time registration can be done online at www.pothc.org, Go to forms.
- Registration needs to be completed by August 15, 2020.
- Summer Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-2:30.
- If your child is not baptized at Holy Cross, you need to send us a copy of your child’s Baptism Certificate. Please email it to hcreled@optonline.net.
- For those who are already part of our program, you need to re-register for the upcoming year. Please note that textbooks will not be distributed to your child without a registration form.

A detailed outline of our program is available online or at our office. However, there are a few important details to be noted.

- Children must successfully complete each grade level to proceed to the next.
- The Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and Confirmation require a minimum of two years of preparations.

Most importantly, we need to work together. Faithful attendance at classes and parent workshops is essential. As comprehensive and informative as our program is, this is only one part of your child’s faith formation. The greatest thing you can do to nurture your faith and the faith of your child is to regularly be a part of our Sunday Eucharist - whether in person or viewing our 11:30am live-streamed Mass.

The Catechism of the Church states that parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. We are privileged to work with you in this task. We thank you for your cooperation in allowing us to be part of our lives. We look forward to a fruitful year where everyone, young or old, continues to grow in understanding the gift of our faith.



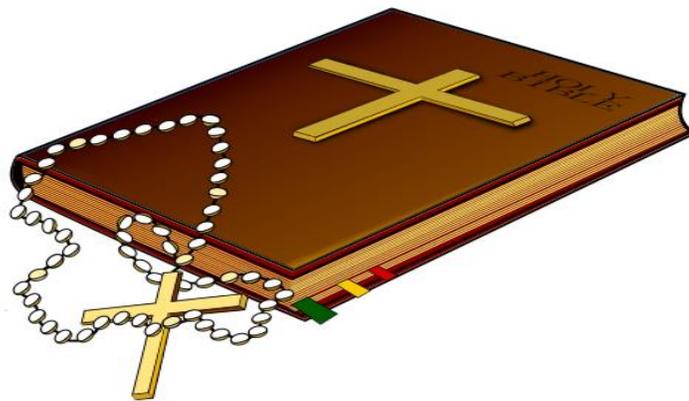


Prayer Page on Our Parish Website

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

Prayer Page for Our Bulletin

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our “Remembering the Sick” section of our bulletin, please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 ext. 122, or email to pothc@optonline.net



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Tuesday, July 7th

1:00pm – 7:00pm

Holy Cross Group #10019

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Walk-ins welcome if drive capacity permits

DONORS PRESENTING:

- Must wear a mask or face covering
- Will have their temperature taken
 - Must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID-19
- May **NOT** donate if they have had a positive diagnostic test or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- May **NOT** donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions

*Please be aware that we **DO NOT** test for COVID-19.*

You should contact your health care provider if you want to be tested.

www.nybc.org/coronavirus

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