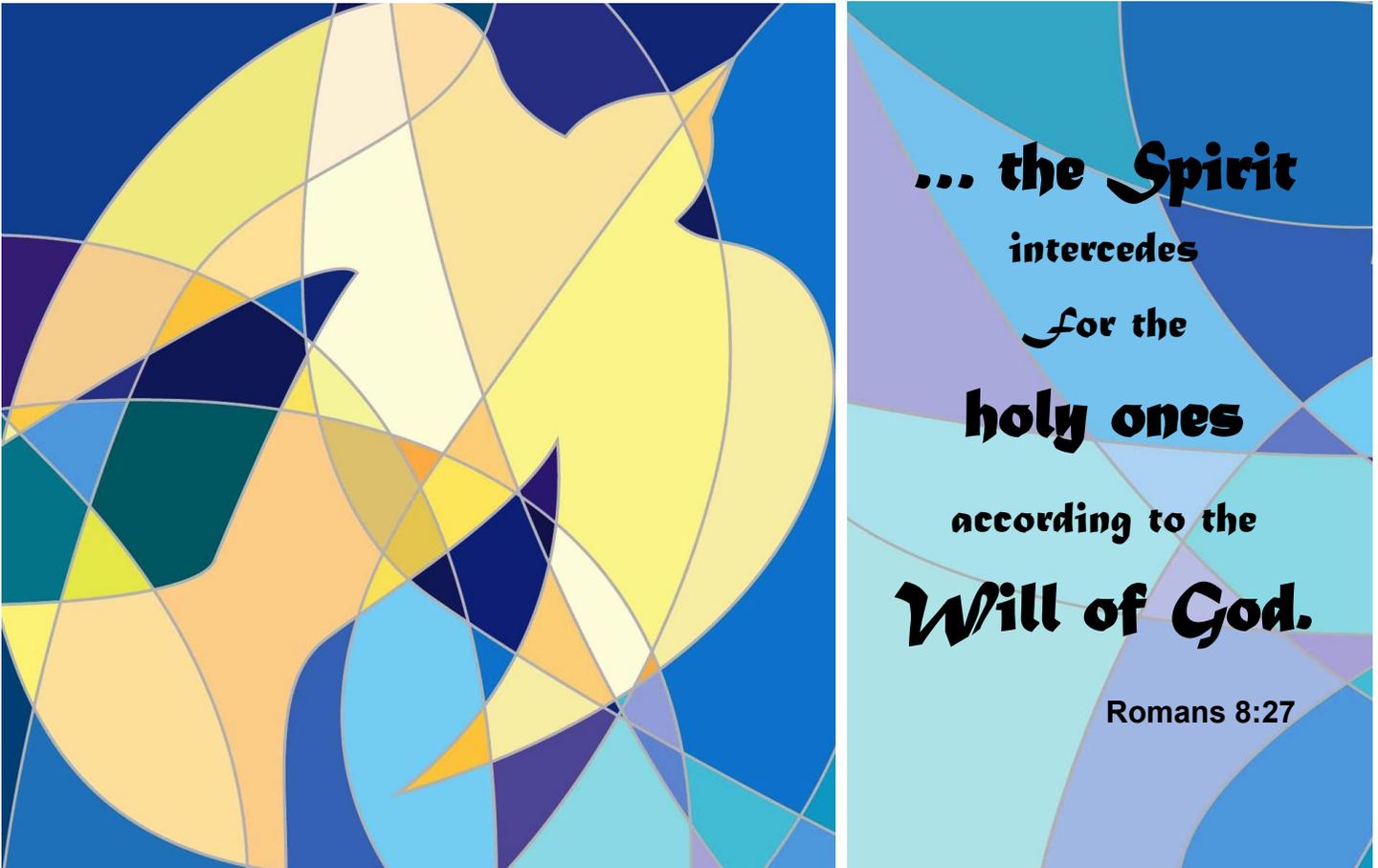


# The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +  
www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**Come and pray with us!**

**16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 19, 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**  
Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM,  
Saturday 5:00 PM, Sunday 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM  
(The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are live streamed on Facebook.)

# We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net)

## PASTORAL TEAM

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. MaryAnne McCulloch, 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  
([hcreled@optonline.net](mailto:hcreled@optonline.net))

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:

<b>Patricia Becker</b>	<b>George V. Daly</b>
<b>Manuela Diaz</b>	<b>Francesco DiMartino</b>
<b>Ann Egan</b>	<b>Sienna Fricke</b>
<b>Phil Graziose</b>	<b>Bob Grieco</b>
<b>Chuck Madden</b>	<b>Joseph Santamaria</b>
<b>Marlene Starr</b>	<b>Judy Viskupic</b>

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 or email to [pothc@optonline.net](mailto:pothc@optonline.net).

## Mass Intentions Schedule



*New Life  
in Christ*

### Week of July 19th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Henry Wangenstein  
**Tue.** Agnes Shields  
**Wed.** Barbara Donohue Meskell  
**Thu.** Alan Hahn

### Saturday, July 25th, 5 PM Mass

Carmelo DiLoreto, Rosemary Graus, Elizabeth Graziose, Timothy Tucci

### Sunday, July 26th, 17th Sun. in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM Michael Corcoran, Greg Wirth, Virginia Barrios, Ernestine Holbin, Alyssa DeWeever Rogan  
11:30 AM Damien Pickel

## Scripture Readings for July 26, 2020



+ 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12  
+ Romans 8:28-30  
+ Matthew 13:44-52

## Parish Office Summer Hours

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM



# PICK AN EMOTION, ANY EMOTION...

*by Father Michael*

I don't know about you, but on any given day there are reasons to experience pretty much any emotion under the sun (which may also include a storm cloud or two).

- When I watch the news, I get fearful.
- There are times when the new daily routines are just tiresome and lifeless.
- I'm grateful for the delightful summer days along with beautiful sunsets.
- If I go back to the news to try to calm my fears, I get angry.
- I take comfort when I feel my Mom cheering me on.
- When I realize how time is slipping by, I get sad.
- There are moments in ministry that are uplifting. For example, we are starting to plan for Confirmation in the fall and we have some creative ideas, which is energizing.
- When I think about the sacrifices and hardships that some folks are facing, it is heartbreaking.
- There is only so much tidying up around the house I can do.
- Phone calls and texts from friends are like bursts of sunshine.
- I'm exhausted.
- I'm having profound moments of peace and serenity in my prayer.

In short, it is an emotional whirlwind. I know I am not alone in feeling this.

I don't think any of us ever envisioned life would include what we are all dealing with. While I don't believe God is imposing this on us for any reason, I do believe he is offering insight into his grace. As much as we long for the way things were, we need to be open to embrace the things that are.

I recently read that the power of God's transformation is not so much found in dealing with something new. The real power is found in letting go of that which is old. I don't pretend for one moment to be delighting in this insight or living it well, but I do believe there is truth in it. While "former ways" can be safe and comforting, it is in newness of life that the Spirit most profoundly abounds. When we hear thoughts like this, we might conclude that they are geared towards saintly people who are spiritual superstars. Life is unmistakably saying, "No, we are all in this together." We need to be patient with ourselves as we grapple with everything. We need to be patient with one another who are each dealing with this in his or her own way. But beyond all of that, we need to trust in a loving and caring God who will lead us precisely where we need to be. We have to allow the emotional roller coaster we all experience to be part of an epic spiritual journey. That is where we will find our God. That is where we will find our peace.

# 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 19th, 2020.
- First time registration can be done online at [www.pothc.org](http://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 was 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](mailto: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 preparation.

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 part of our Sunday Eucharist - whether in person or viewing our 11:30 AM 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 your lives. We look forward to a fruitful year where everyone, young and old, continues to grow in understanding the gift of our faith.



# CONGRATULATIONS!

*to the following children who celebrated  
First Eucharist in July 2020*

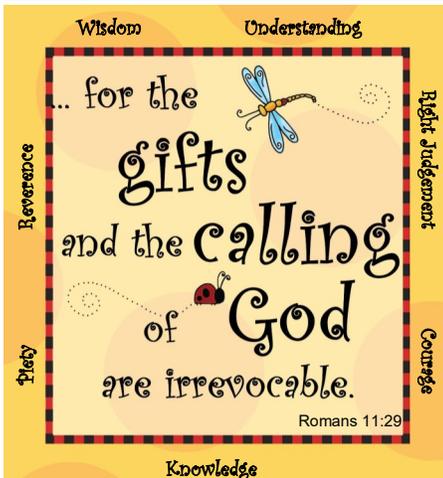
Grace Adu-Amanfoh  
Donovan Albanese  
Travis Albers  
Matthew Amature  
Katie Becker  
Sara Becker  
Katelyn Bouchard  
James Bourgoin  
Cole Brennan  
Brendon Cairns  
Mary Calefato  
Matthew Cane  
Caitlin Champion  
Brendan Collins  
Gianna DiBenedetto  
Christian Draney  
John Dransite  
Eric Elarde  
Luciano Fullone  
Blake Gilberti  
Lily Granger  
Anthony Greco  
Kenneth Hayde  
Jake Houlihan  
Dylan Johnson  
Chayton Kosiba

Quinn Kuhl  
Sophia Lauterborn  
Emmet Legg  
John Lepore  
Jade Lerner  
Matthew Longobardi  
Liam Lukasik  
Paul Mammolito  
Chloe Martin  
Joseph Maughan  
Sienna Mayer  
Rebecca Mazaroski  
Ryan Mennella  
Samantha Mevs  
Lianna Moran  
James Muchow  
Tessa Naples  
Torianne Napolitano  
Leah Nowakowski  
Giuliana Occhino  
Daniel Perillo  
Dylan Peters  
Brady Petite  
Charles Pitman  
Landon Prybella  
Giovanni Reinado

Sophia Romeo  
Hunter Ruivo  
Vincent Sarling  
Mia Scafuri  
Emma Scanlon  
Kristina Scanlon  
Ashin Schulz  
Juliet Shankles  
Karyssa Sokolowski  
Justin Solomito  
Rachel Stapleton  
Kyle Sweeney  
Nicholas Tartamella  
Colton Tetrault  
Tyler Tetrault  
Liam Ventimiglia  
Reese Walker  
Liam Youngworth



# LITURGY BYTES—Confirmation



The Sacrament of Confirmation is sometimes, unfortunately, referred to as the Sacrament of Graduation. It seems to mark the end of something in some people's eyes. You will notice in our weekly Sacrament reflections, I have chosen Confirmation to follow Baptism. Probably for most folks, Confirmation was received later on after we received First Holy Communion.

Over the years, depending on where you lived or what parish you were part of, Confirmation might have been received in 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grade or even later on when reaching high school. You might ask, why such a variety of ages? This Sacrament has gone through many stages of study as to when is the appropriate time. The understanding of this Sacrament has also rotated from a Sacrament of maturity back to the completion of one's Baptism. For some of us, we might recall learning that Confirmation made us soldiers in Christ's army, or receiving Confirmation made us adults in the Church!

Another perspective about receiving Confirmation occurs for adults becoming Catholic through the RCIA process. These adults are baptized, confirmed, and receive Eucharist at the same time through the beautiful experience of the Easter Vigil. Notice that within the Liturgy, Confirmation occurs after they are baptized.

The connection to Baptism is most important because in the early days of the Church, Confirmation was not a Sacrament. When the numbers grew among those wishing to join the Church, the Bishops could not handle all the celebrations. The second anointing done at that time in Baptism was then **reserved for another time later** when the Bishop was available to get around to all the Churches.

The order of presbyters (priests) was established to serve the local Churches and

*Continued on Next Page*

# Confirmation continued

administer the Sacraments. Confirmation was then established as a separate Sacrament to be conferred by the Bishop. The Bishop was “**confirming**” what was already done at Baptism. Hence, we can see the connection between these two Sacraments. The Holy Spirit comes to the baptized and comes again in a different way at the time of Confirmation. Candidates for Confirmation re-affirm the promises made at Baptism and are anointed with the Sacred Chrism. Some choose to add a name or re-affirm the name given at the time of Baptism. They have now entered into a new and different relationship with the Lord. Because they are considered fully initiated Catholics, they may be sponsors or godparents for others, a privileged moment for many of us.

On the feast of Pentecost every year, adults who never received Confirmation as a young person are confirmed. People of all ages, who were baptized and received First Communion, are invited to complete their initiation. Usually during Lent, weekly classes are held for this group to refresh their knowledge and understanding of our Faith. Again, this wonderful celebration did not take place this year because of the pandemic. We look forward to next year and inviting those adults (over 18) who wish to receive Confirmation to contact us!

No matter the model, Confirmation does not mean the end of growth in faith. Reaching maturity and making a commitment to faith does not mean the end of a journey but the **beginning** of a new road to ever-maturing faith. Let us use our gifts to guide and encourage those who may not have completed their full initiation as a Catholic.

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



# PARISH NEWS



**Banns of Marriage -**

**First Time - Kristy Cosgrove & Michael Nocerino**  
**First Time - Danielle Todesco & Brandon Hegarty**

**THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER:** Mon.-Fri. 9:00 AM-2:30 PM.

**THE PARISH OFFICE IS OPEN:** Monday-Friday 9:00 AM-2:30 PM.

**WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION:** Wednesdays after 9:00 AM Mass & Saturdays from 3:00 PM-4:00 PM or call Father Michael for an appointment.

**WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM:** Baptisms are generally celebrated twice each month at 1PM. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**WE CELEBRATE WEDDINGS:** Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

## Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just:

You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith. Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.

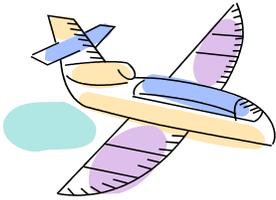
Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility, and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen

## Prayer Pages on Our Parish Website

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

Next weekend is the collection for our **Regional Schools**. Envelopes may be mailed to Holy Cross, placed in the drop box in our courtyard or basket in the atrium.  
Thank you for your support!

## A NOTE FROM FR. JIM MCNAMARA



### Italy: Something to look forward to!

Dear Friends:

I was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Rockville Centre on May 29, 1971 at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre, and I said my First Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 30, 1971 at my home parish of St. Ignatius in Hicksville. To celebrate the many graces and blessings in the privilege of being a priest, I am inviting you to join me on a pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome next year. It is called 50 for 50, fifty people for fifty years.

The enclosed website, giving you a description of our days together, is available online at [www.pilgrimages.com/frjimmcnamara](http://www.pilgrimages.com/frjimmcnamara). You will need an id and a password to access the brochure. The id is: saint The password is: francis

In both Assisi and Rome, we will have the assistance of an escort as we travel in the land of St. Francis and St. Clare and in the rich history of the city of Rome.

I hope you can join me, as this is how I plan to celebrate my fiftieth anniversary. While travel at the present time may seem daunting, I live in hope that our loving God will guide us through these troubled waters to a time of peace in an opportunity to rediscover and revisit God's faithfulness and love in our lives.

All arrangements are being made through 206 Tours in whom I have great confidence. Please be sure to read carefully their terms and conditions as they contain important information. You might consider travel insurance in the light of these less certain times.

You can register directly with 206 Tours. The information is provided in this brochure.

May the Lord give you peace.

Fr. Jim McNamara

# WE'RE BACK!

Here are some pictures taken at one of our first opening Masses:

