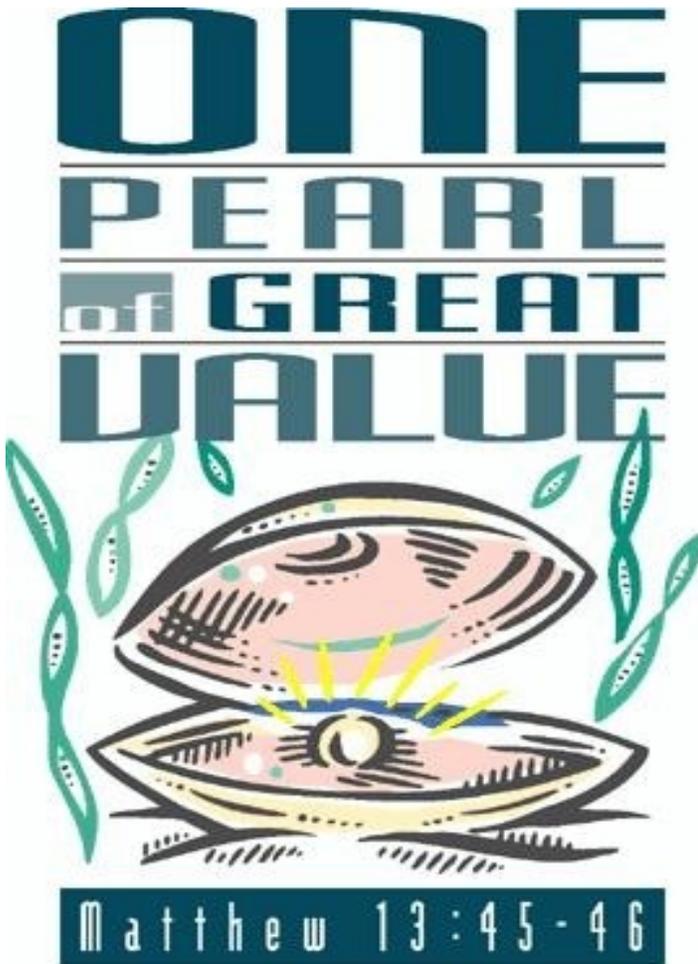


The Parish of the Holy Cross

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

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



*“The kingdom of heaven
is like a merchant
searching for fine pearls.*

*When he finds a pearl
of great price, he goes
and sells all that he has
and buys it.”*

Come and pray with us!

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time - July 26, 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

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)

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:

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

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.

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of July 26th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Victor Lamarque

Thu. Sr. Marion Lenihan

Saturday, August 1st, 5 PM Mass

Christopher Cotter, Elizabeth Graziose

Sunday, August 2nd, 18th Sun. in Ordinary Time

Since there will not be an 8:00 AM Mass, the intention originally scheduled for this Mass will be read at the 11:30 AM Mass.

9:30 AM Mathew A. DiPietro

11:30 AM Fortunato Nappo



Scripture Readings for August 2, 2020



+ Isaiah 55:1-3
+ Romans 8:35, 37-39
+ Matthew 14:13-21

Parish Office Summer Hours

9:00 AM to 2:30 PM



Finding New Ways to Vacation

by Father Michael

I will be taking a few days off this week. I also plan to take a week off towards the end of August. I know I am feeling an emotional weariness, and I need to recharge my batteries. I am also taking the advice of parishioners, co-workers and friends who keep saying to me that I need to take a little down time.

Normally, vacation time is easy to deal with. For me, that often means traveling somewhere fun. Last summer I went on a cruise with friends. I never need a reason to visit the Southwest; just put me in a National Park and I am in my glory. But as all of us have come to know, very few areas of life are operating normally. This summer it means rediscovering fun, and redefining what will renew our spirit. So it looks like a little list of garden, household, and personal projects will be my source of life for this week.

In August I was supposed to be acting as a tour guide in taking three friends to the Grand Canyon. When the crisis first became out of control in Arizona, we changed plans to head up into Utah instead, where they are faring much better. But, now that a quarantine would be required upon returning home, we had to cancel the entire trip. We may try to do a few days upstate New York or New England. Time will tell. If it is meant to be . . .

I don't want to sound like I am complaining. I feel blessed that I am able to have some quiet days. There are many for whom this is not an option because of how the Covid crisis has touched their lives. Some people are facing economic hardship. Some folks have health limitations or concerns, if not for themselves, then for a loved one. Parents can't take a break from the kids. In many cases some of the usual summer activities like camps or sports programs are not happening, so mom and dad are working overtime. For some folks the time in isolation has no end in sight. These are challenging times for everyone.

I think of the Scripture passage when Jesus seeks a deserted place for a few days to get away from the crowds. That is not exactly an exciting vacation, but it is what he needed to do to stay on track. As challenging as it may be, we need to seek a path that will bring us life. Expectations may need to be lowered, favorite activities may need to remain on hold, but we cannot let worry or despair take hold.

I continue to be most appreciative for all those who offer me their prayers, support and encouragement. We are moving through an epic time in history. But we journey together and are nourished and strengthened by our Lord. Stay well, stay strong.

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 . 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 .
- 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.

PARISH OUTREACH

School Supplies Program 2020

Due to the Coronavirus situation, the need for social distancing and our concern for the safety of our project volunteers, we will not be collecting School Supplies this year. We will be supplying our Outreach parents with gift cards to shop for the supplies their children will need and to help in the purchase of sneakers.

We hope you can support this effort by making a monetary donation to help us meet this need. Checks made out to *Holy Cross Outreach* can be put in a plain envelope and marked for "School Supplies." These donations may be dropped in our School House in the Atrium or mailed directly to Parish Outreach at 95 Nichols Road, Nesconset, NY 11767.

Thank you for the many ways you continue to reach out to those struggling to make ends meet in this very difficult time.

WE ENCOURAGE ANY MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WHO ARE IN NEED OF HELP WITH SCHOOL SUPPLIES TO CALL PARISH OUTREACH AT 631-265-2200 ext. 113.



LITURGY BYTES



Eucharist

To complete the Sacraments of Initiation, this week's reflection will focus on Eucharist. As I mentioned last week, most of us probably received Holy Communion at an early age, maybe second or third grade, definitely before we received the Sacrament of Confirmation. This weekend we witnessed adults at the 5 o'clock Mass and 9:30 Mass receiving Confirmation and Eucharist. These are special moments for these brothers and sisters and even for us as a parish family. We welcome them to our Faith community.

In the early days of the Church, Communion was received around the age of 14 (the age of reason) for young people. In the early 1900s, Pope Pius X changed the age of reason to 7 so children could receive Eucharist at an earlier age. As you know, this practice has continued right through the present day. In fact, the past two Saturdays, we were finally able to celebrate six First Communion Masses with the young people of Level 2 and their families. A longed-for special moment for these children was finally celebrated. We congratulate them and will enjoy seeing them receive at the Lord's table each week.

As we have been unable to receive Our Lord for over three months in recent days, we started to realize the great void in our lives. Knowing we experience Our Lord in other ways seemed not enough. All we have known and learned haunted our souls in different ways. Did this fasting deepen our appreciation for what we know of Vatican II's phrase – "the source and summit of our lives"? *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (the Constitution on the Liturgy) defined Eucharist in this way: "a sacrament of love, a sign of unity, a bond of charity, a paschal bouquet in which Christ is eaten, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us." (n.47) More common to our understanding is the Eucharist as a sacrifice with Christ's presence in the Eucharist rounding out our understanding. It is our nourishment for the journey as disciples of Christ. Each week at Mass, we hear the words of Our Lord: **DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME** as we gather around the Table of the Lord. These are privileged moments.

Have a healthy, safe, and blessed week! ~~~~~Michele Hahn

PARISH NEWS



Banns of Marriage - Second Time - Kristy Cosgrove & Michael Nocerino
Second Time - Danielle Todesco & Brandon Hegarty

Parish Outreach

Thanks to everyone's support, our Parish Outreach pantry is well stocked. If you would like to donate food, Long Island Cares and Long Island Harvest are accepting donations. For your information, our Parish Outreach Schools Supplies Program has begun. Please see page 5 of the bulletin for details. Thank you for your support of Parish Outreach!



Congratulations!

The Parish of the Holy Cross rejoices with **Cheryl Maher** and **Johnny Santos** who celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist this weekend, completing their initiation into the Catholic Church. May God bless you and your families always.



Cheryl Maher



Johnny Santos

Our Prayer Pages

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. Please email your prayers to pothc@optonline.net.

Special Collection

This 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!

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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

GOOD SHEPHERD HOSPICE Virtual Bereavement Support Groups

Free, professionally run virtual bereavement support groups, open to all grieving community members:

Adult Loss of Parent or Sibling Bereavement Support Group

August 1 through September 5 / 10:00AM-11:30AM

Saturday Mornings

Registration Required - Email/Call Intake Coordinator: Keara Lincoln, LMSW
(631) 828-7631 / keara.lincoln@chsli.org

Spanish Speaking Bereavement Support Group for loss due to COVID-19

August 4 through September 22 / 6:00PM-7:30PM

Tuesday Evenings

Registration Required - Email/Call Intake Coordinator: Yamith Soacha, LCSW
(631) 655-7569 / yamith.soacha@chsli.org



The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Upcoming Workshop

Catechist Training Level II

Zoom

Mon, July 27, Wed, July 29, Mon, Aug 3
and Wed, Aug 5, 2020

Morning - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Evening - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information, workshops, or to register online, please visit [**drvc-faith.org/event**](http://drvc-faith.org/event)

Energy Bill Assistance **E X T E N D E D**

through August 31st

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial burden on so many households, New York State has **extended the deadline for Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) applications to August 31, 2020.**

HEAP helps income-eligible households pay heat-related energy bills, even beyond the heating season. Whether you own or rent you may qualify for a HEAP grant that you do not have to pay back.

HEAP Cooling Assistance Benefit — You may also qualify for a free air conditioner or fan based on income and medical need.

Learn more about HEAP qualifications and how to apply at <https://otda.ny.gov/HEAP>



Bill Discounts Available for Qualifying Customers

Our Household Assistance Program provides an automatic discount on every bill. You may qualify if you receive benefits from at least one the following programs:

- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance — Family Assistance (FA)
- Temporary Assistance — Safety Net Assistance (SNA)
- Veteran's Pension — Non-Service Connected Disability
- Veteran's Surviving Spouse Pension — Non-Service Connected Disability

For more information, visit **PSEGLINY.com/assistance** or call us at 1-800-490-0025.