

# 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!**

**20th Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 16, 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:

<b>Patricia Becker</b>	<b>George V. Daly</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 August 16th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Linda Mark  
**Tue.** Edmund Hirschfeld  
**Wed.** Michael E. Terranova

**There will not be a morning Mass on Thursday.**

### Saturday, August 22nd, 5 PM Mass

Sabino Maffeo, Irene Santos, Joan Babino

### Sunday, August 23rd, 21st Sun. in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM Rose Schreiber, Joseph Scalamandre  
11:30 AM Linda Mark

## Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses

### August 22nd/23rd



5:00 PM Fr. Mickey Bancroft  
9:30 AM Msgr. Jim Vlaun  
11:30 AM TBD

## *Scripture Readings for August 23, 2020*



+ *Isaiah 22:19-23*  
+ *Romans 11:33-36*  
+ *Matthew 16:13-20*

# A Tale of Two Cities

*by Father Michael*

Well, it's not exactly a story about two cities, but rather two stories or bits of news from this past week.

Story #1: On Tuesday evening our Youth Group gathered for a socially distant meeting in the courtyard. This was the first live gathering since the beginning of March (there had been several Zoom Meetings over the past few months). On the one hand, it was great to see kids I had not seen in six months. It was uplifting to see life, energy and excitement. But, it was also a subtle reminder of all that has been lost these past months: the kids were scheduled to go on retreat, but that had to be cancelled; the usual traditions for the graduating Seniors were significantly modified. I am grateful to Allie, our Youth Minister, and the Core Group for pulling the evening together. I know life as we now know it is not forever, but there are those moments when we long for more of the normalcy and balance we once had. But hang in there, brighter days are ahead.

Story #2: As I have shared with you, I have a small fish pond at the house. At one point there were thirteen fish of various sizes. Through the years a couple of them died. A few winters back was a rough season. The pond completely froze over, and spring thaw was followed by an attack by some sort of bird of prey. For the last few years I was left with only two goldfish. I did my best to feed them and keep them happy, and they seemed to be doing well.

A few weeks ago I noticed the water was getting funky. It was brown and cloudy and there was more debris in the pond than should have been there. At the beginning of this week I decided to clean out the pond. As soon as I started, I realized it was going to be a bigger job than I realized. I scooped the fish out and put them in a large plastic bin while the project was underway. I drained the water. I then jumped in and shoveled out an abundance of dead leaves and muck. I refilled the pond, made sure the "bubbler" was functioning and put the fish back in their clean home. Mission accomplished - everything went well.

The next morning they were happily swimming around. But at lunch time one of the little guys had died. I felt bad for his lone friend. I was going to ask this weekend if anyone who has a fish pond would like to adopt him. But then, the next morning, the second fellow also died. One of two things happened. Either the first fish died of old age and the second one died of a broken heart. Or, in the cleaning process I did something that fatally shocked the fish like a significant change in water temperature or in the alkaline level or something. I suspect it was the latter. I feel terrible. I was really trying to help the little guys. While I enjoyed having the fish, I have decided not to replace them. Could anyone use a bag of fish food?

I hope you had an uneventful week. Onward we go . . .

# LITURGY BYTES

## *Sacraments of Healing – Part 2*



The second Sacrament of Healing is called the Sacrament of the Sick or the Anointing of the Sick. During the middle ages it became known as Extreme Unction. When it had the title of Extreme Unction, this Sacrament was referred to as Last Rites, basically administered to those close to death.

Fortunately, through the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, the name and use of the Sacrament reverted back to the early days of the Church when it was used for those ill or of advanced age. Perhaps you have noticed the Ambry (by the Baptismal font) which holds three bottles of blessed oils: Sacred Chrism – used at Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Orders; Oil of the Catechumens – used at the Easter Vigil for those becoming Catholic; and the Oil of the Sick – used for this Sacrament, the Anointing of the Sick.

This Sacrament can be celebrated in many ways: privately with the Priest, or in a more communal setting at a prayer service or at Mass. This Sacrament can be received multiple times. Many people undergoing surgery will request it. Parishes try to hold communal celebrations for this Sacrament a few times during the year inviting anyone of advanced age, or with an illness to participate.

The introduction to the rite tells us that the grace from this Sacrament provides spiritual strengthening, resistance of temptation, and courage to fight the anxiety of death; help to bear suffering and fight against it; healing of the soul and also of the body if it is God's will; and the forgiveness of sins and the completion of penance, if necessary. Because it forgives sin, only the Priest can administer this Sacrament. The Catechism tells us that "by celebrating this Sacrament, the Church, in communion with the saints, intercedes for the benefit of the sick person. The person who is ill, through the grace of the Sacrament, contributes to the sanctification of the Church." (n.1522) Here we see the extravagant compassion and mercy of our God who intends us to be embraced by His unconditional love and friendship. Watch the bulletin for a date when the parish will hold a communal celebration of this Sacrament and join us. It is a beautiful experience.

Have a safe, healthy, and blessed week! ~~~*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 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 September 1, 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.

# PARISH NEWS

**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 (closed for lunch 12:15-1:00 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.

## 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](mailto:pothc@optonline.net). (Please note: If praying for those who are ill, last names may not always appear unless permission has been granted.)*

## Special Collection

Next weekend, we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. 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!



## 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