

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!

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 23, 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	Susan Ceely-Sack
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 August 23rd, 9AM Mass

No Morning Mass on Monday

Tue. Victor Lamarque

Wed. Donald Stevenson

Thu. Dave Kuzmir

Saturday, August 29th, 5 PM Mass

Ralph Fandetta, Gennaro Cianciotta, Luz M. Rivera, Thomas Dunn

Sunday, August 30th, 22nd Sunday in Ord. Time

9:30 AM Rose Schreiber

11:30 AM Robert Tavis, Dennis Kane, Edward Lloyd, Gloria Maresca, Barbara Kobielski



*New Life
in Christ*

Scripture Readings for August 30, 2020



+ *Jeremiah 20:7-9*
+ *Romans 12:1-2*
+ *Matthew 16:21-27*



Banns of Marriage First Time

Clodagh Harte & Roy Huber

NOT WHAT I WAS PLANNING ON...

by Father Michael

I can't imagine how many times this thought has crossed the minds of so many people in so many circumstances in these past months. Some issues are serious and have far reaching implications. Other issues are more of an inconvenience or an impact on the quality of life.

- Educators and school personnel trying to make heads or tails out of what this year's classes will look like
- High school students whose favorite sport has been sidelined
- An engaged couple who was planning on a wedding with 150 guests that is now reduced to two dozen, followed by a barbeque in the backyard
- Parents who are discerning what is the best course to take with their children
- Elderly folks and those who are in health care facilities who are in isolation from their loved ones
- Exciting vacation plans going by the wayside
- The first-year college student who was looking forward to life on campus now anticipates only having time in front of a computer screen
- Watching your favorite team playing in an empty stadium
- Furloughed workers wondering if their job will ever come back.
- Kids who want to just play with their friends

As time goes on we have all made some adjustments to the way life has become. But, every once in a while, we are reminded of the way things were. There can be a sadness, frustration, as well as an uncertainty for the future.

It's fine to name the sorrow and losses of these past few months. But, in the midst of it, don't overlook the graces and blessings. I reached out to more long lost friends in the past few months than ever before. My appreciation for the gift of priesthood grew to new heights. Simple things and conversations seem more life giving.

I certainly do not want to minimize the heartache and hardship that many have faced. I also don't want to be unrealistically optimistic. But the gospel calls us to be people of hope. I pray that in the midst of the challenges, I hope you have experienced God's strength in a new and unexpected way. I'm sure all the saints of the Church would have said, "This is not what I was planning on." But that's okay, because the gift of God's grace is still at work.

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 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 .
- 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.

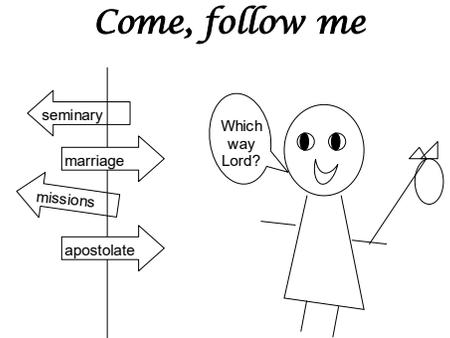


The Catechism of the Church states that parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. We are privileged to work with you in this task. We thank you for your cooperation in allowing us to be part of your lives. We look forward to a fruitful year where everyone, young and old,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

LITURGY BYTES

Sacraments of Vocation

For the next few weeks, we will glance into Holy Orders and Matrimony, the two Sacraments of Vocation or Service. The word vocation does have a secular meaning expressing someone's suitability for a particular profession. It also includes having a passion and an aptitude for that profession which indicates one's career choice is more than a job.



In the Church world, the word vocation comes from the Latin word "vocare," meaning to call. At the heart of the meaning of vocation is a call. Perhaps you have heard, as I, that it is a call from Christ, offered to all the baptized, to follow him and to become signs and witnesses of the reign of God.

Many of us probably learned either in Catholic school or in Religious Education classes that vocation meant a call for the single male population to become a priest, or for single males and females to enter a Religious community as a Sister or Brother. Perhaps there were events where priests, sisters and brothers would speak to young people about their vocation, answering questions and offering encouragement to pray about their future endeavors. I am sure many vocation ideas came from those meetings.

Today, what do Church documents say about the word vocation? In the CCC (Catechism), they speak of holiness as the vocation of all Christians (n.1533). Pope Francis emphasizes the aspect of call when discussing holiness in "Rejoice and Be Glad." The Lord calls each of us to holiness. Although great saints and martyrs are extraordinary examples, Francis urges us to live out our vocation to holiness by finding its path in the everyday gestures in our lives. In another of the Pope's exhortations, "Amoris Laetitia," he states this about marriage:

Continued on next page

LITURGY BYTES continued

“Marriage is a vocation, in as much as it is a response to a specific call... consequently the decision to marry and to have a family ought to be the fruit of a process of vocational discernment” (n.72).

In the book “Sustaining the Spirit” by Michael and Cathy Carrotta, the dimensions of vocation are addressed as: work, relationship, and faith.

If these were better understood, better conversations about vocation would help with family matters which then would certainly benefit the people of God to realize that being a Christian is a vocation that invites us into lay ecclesial ministries in the parish that foster the mission of the Church in addition to family commitments.

Here is one question for this week’s reflection: “WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR ME?”

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

Prayer to Know One's Vocation

Lord, my God and my loving Father, you have made me to know you, to love you, to serve you, and thereby to find and to fulfill my deepest longings. I know that you are in all things, and that every path can lead me to you. But of them all, there is one especially by which you want me to come to you. Since I will do what you want of me, I pray you send your Holy Spirit to me: into my mind, to show me what you want of me; into my heart, to give me the determination to do it, and to do it with all my love, with all my mind, and with all of my strength right to the end.

Jesus, I trust in you. Amen



PARISH NEWS

Special Collection

This 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!



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. (Please note: If praying for those who are ill, last names may not always appear unless permission has been granted.)*

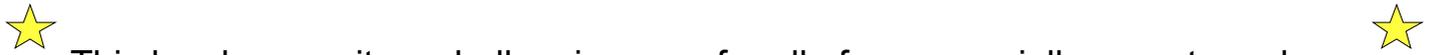
If you would like to purchase a 2021 *At Home with the Word* book, please sign up in the hallway by the Parish Office.



PARISH OUTREACH



Outreach School Supplies Thank You



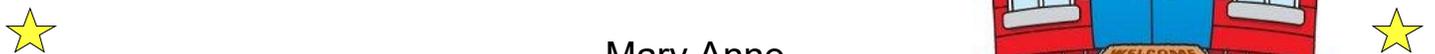
This has been quite a challenging year for all of us, especially parents and children. Although the school year may look a little different this year, one thing remains the same and that is the ability of Parish Outreach to provide some help to families as they begin the school year. We are able to do this due to the wonderful generosity of our parish community.



On behalf of those families, I thank you so very much for your support of the Outreach School Supplies program. Because of your generosity we were able to provide over \$50 in gift cards to each of the 60 children who accessed our program. We trust this will help them get their school year off to a good start.



You are all fantastic! Stay safe and God Bless!



Mary Anne
Parish Outreach



PARISH OUTREACH

AS PANDEMIC DESTROYS TRADITIONAL BLOOD DRIVE MODEL, 75% OF INCOMING SUPPLY IS THREATENED

Start of school year usually boosts donations, but offers no relief amid COVID-19

New York Blood Center encourages blood donors to schedule appointments at donor centers

NEW YORK — New York Blood Center is calling on the community to make appointments to visit donor centers as COVID-19 has fundamentally changed the process of donating blood. Before COVID-19, mobile blood drives hosted by high schools, colleges, businesses and other organizations made up about 75% of the region's incoming blood supply, but the number of blood drives has dropped by two-thirds this year due to the pandemic.

The upcoming school year presents new and unprecedented challenges. Blood donations are typically lower during the summer and the return to school usually helps make up the difference and stabilize the blood supply. In the past, school and college drives have resulted in 75,000 blood donations during each school year.

"The pandemic is forcing us to rethink the entire landscape, which means encouraging donors to take the extra step of making an appointment and traveling to a donor center. The loss of young donors is a particular challenge because our future blood supply is dependent on these first-time donors becoming lifetime donors," said Andrea H. Cefarelli, Senior Executive Director of Recruitment & Marketing for New York Blood Center. "We've always relied on the fall to provide a boost in blood donations from high school and college students hosting drives and this year we know this relief will not be coming."

NYBC began hosting a limited number of drives again this summer, however they are far from the number of drives per month needed to support area hospitals. NYBC is encouraging eligible donors of all ages to adapt to this new normal by making appointments to visit one of its 19 donor centers, which have expanded capacity and hours of operation in order to safely accommodate more donors.

Blood from volunteer donors is needed every two seconds to help meet the daily transfusion needs of cancer and surgery patients, accident and burn victims, newborns and mothers delivering babies, AIDS and sickle cell anemia patients, and many more.

To make an appointment to donate blood, visit [here](#).

NYBC also needs more partners to step up and help host drives in large venues. If you have a space available and would like to host a blood drive, please sign up [here](#).

For information on the extra precautions being taken to help prevent the person-to-person spread of COVID-19, visit [here](#).

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bereavement Support Groups

Bereavement Ministry - St. Mary's, East Islip

The pandemic of 2020 resulted in a great many challenges: most especially, the unexpected death of a loved one. A special focus support group is offered for adults who have endured this specific loss and are struggling to rebuild their lives within the current societal framework.

There will also be a second adult bereavement support group offered not related to COVID-19 for anyone who has lost a loved one.

In order to participate in this program, the death must have occurred prior to June 17th, 2020.

Both groups will begin on Thursday, September 17th, at 7pm. There is no cost to attend the groups, but pre-registration is required. If interested, please call (631)581-4266, x-125.

Please note that all participants must wear a mask while in the group, and will be as socially distanced as possible.



Bereavement Support Groups

Good Shepherd Hospice Bereavement Services

Bereavement Services are opened to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss through death, at no charge. Upcoming Bereavement Support Groups, led by a Bereavement Specialist, include:

Virtual Spousal/Partner Loss Bereavement Support Group

September 15 through November 3 / 5:00 PM-6:30 PM

Registration Required: Roger Sullivan, LCSW @

(631) 465-6332 / roger.sullivan@chsli.org

Virtual Bereavement Support Group for COVID Related Loss

September 15 through November 3 / 6:45 PM-8:00 PM

Registration Required: Roger Sullivan, LCSW @

(631) 465-6332 / roger.sullivan@chsli.org