

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!

Do not be
conformed
to this
world but



by the renewal
of your mind.

Romans 12:2

Come and pray with us!

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 30, 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
Olivia Melia	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.

Scripture Readings for September 6, 2020



+ Ezekiel 33:7-9
+ Romans 13:8-10
+ Matthew 18:15-20

Mass Intentions Schedule



*New Life
in Christ*

Week of August 30th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Peter Bartolomei
Tue. Luz Rivera
Wed. Maureen Hutchinson
Thu. Gaetano Lomonocco

Saturday, September 5th, 5 PM Mass

Suzanne Fitzgibbons, Carmela Terranova, Patricia Pravato, Nora Gorman, Jean Straple

Sunday, Sept. 6th, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM Greg Wirth, Rose Schreiber, Mae Churchill, John Bryan, John Bryan Jr.
11:30 AM Frances J. Portelli

Banns of Marriage

First Time

Ashley Murphy & Thomas Killoran

Second Time

Clodagh Harte & Roy Huber



THE GRAND...POCONOS

by Father Michael

My original plan was to go out West with four friends. The highlight of our trip was going to be an overnight at the Grand Canyon. We planned far enough ahead of time to reserve a room at one of the few lodges inside the park. Needless to say, that trip had to be canceled, but we still wanted to do something. Our group of four dropped to three. We thought a safe place to go would be the Poconos. We rented an Airbnb for three nights, piled my car full of stuff for the adventure, and we were off.

With no traffic we could have gotten to East Stroudsburg in well under three hours, but we took the long and winding road, including the Palisades Parkway north and the scenic route 209 down through the Delaware National Recreation Area. We brought a picnic lunch and enjoyed outdoor dining in a lovely spot at High Point State Park in New Jersey.

Our accommodations were far from luxurious. We were in a big old farmhouse that could have accommodated 15 people, but the place was clean and served our needs. We did some touristy things like visit Bushkill Falls and browsed in a candle shop or two as well as an antique mall. We canceled our plans to take a float trip in the Delaware because of scorching heat. Instead, I found a refreshing stream where I sat down and let the waters of life roll past me. I tried to allow my worries and aches to symbolically get carried downstream. We ended up taking gentle walks on some local hiking trails and had a delightful time. Lessons continue to be taught during these days. For me, vacation time usually means doing something exciting and traveling far. This year my joy was found a lot closer to home with a few friends doing simple things.

I almost feel guilty about talking about vacation time. For many, it is not an option this year. There are parents who are concerned about and still trying to understand what their children's educational program will look like. For anyone involved in education, their heads are spinning. As I write this article there are ominous weather forecasts for the people on the Gulf Coast as Hurricane Laura barrels forward.

I was blessed to have some relaxing and peaceful time. It was a grand few days. For some, this is not the time to be celebrating life. Or the things that can be celebrated are now found in new and unexpected ways. But as Ecclesiastes reminds us, "There is an appointed time for everything under the sun." In the bigger picture of life, I pray that there have been moments where you truly celebrated life. For to make this journey without being able to say "It has been grand," would be a loss. It would be a loss for ourselves and it would be a loss to the God who infinitely loves us.

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

Holy Orders

In keeping with our theme discussing the Sacraments of Vocation, let us begin with the Sacrament of Holy Orders. When we think of service, we probably think about the word ministry which refers to public service by members of the Church. The bishops, priests and deacons are ordained ministers. They are joined by lay persons who serve in different capacities in parishes, dioceses and other institutions including hospitals and schools.



The earliest Christian communities also had many active ministries. The names varied from what we are familiar with today. However, there were some familiar ones like ministers: of the word, of healing, of worship, and of leadership. There were teachers and prophets too. History shows us that there were the twelve who were called “apostoloi,” and there were “episkopoi,” the “presbyteroi” and “diakonoι.” It is in this context that ordained ministry and the Sacrament of Holy Orders emerged. Keep in mind that it did take a great deal of time to arrive at what we know today as bishops, priests, and deacons.

In the 16th century, the council of Trent saw ministry synonymous with ordination. It also seemed that ordained and vowed religious were thought to be the ones who would carry out the Church’s mission. Men could pursue priesthood through their diocese and not be a part of a religious community. There seemed to be great stability in the Church about Holy Orders from Trent through Vatican II.

Holy Orders factoids: This Sacrament may be received only once. The laying on of hands and the prayers of consecration are the visible signs of this Sacrament. There are only three orders: bishop, priest, and deacon, which is why the name of the Sacrament is plural. Archbishop, cardinal, and pope are also familiar titles in the governance of the Church, but these are not orders. There are two different kinds of deacons: transitional and permanent. A man on his way to priesthood is ordained a transitional deacon as a step to priestly ordination. A permanent deacon is a man, single or married, called to this ministry of service as a lifetime commitment.

Most important to keep in mind is that to serve is a privilege. As with many civic and secular positions of leadership, both the ordained minister and members of the faith community

LITURGY BYTES **continued**

must be cautious that the privilege to serve does not become membership in a privileged class where one draws on one's status for one's own benefit. We must always be vigilant as a Church that the use of power is always for the good, and that privilege is first and foremost the privilege to serve. Let us pray.....

Vocations Prayer

*Almighty and merciful Father,
you inspire and bring to fulfillment every good intention.*

*Guide your people in the way of salvation
and watch over those who shepherd your flock
and those who have left all things to follow you.*

*Raise up worthy ministers for your altars,
ardent but gentle servants of the Gospel,
and generous souls who renounce worldly power and profit
to serve you and their brothers and sisters faithfully
in the spirit of poverty and humility.*

*Inspire our young men and women to respond to your call
so that your Church might always rejoice
in plentiful servants for your harvest.*

*We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

Amen.

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

March 1,2020 – May 31,2020- Quarterly Financial Highlights

Revenues:

- During the Covid-19 closure, collections were only down 12.8% (down 2.1% for the year – approx. -\$8500) Parishioners and Facebook followers were very generous!
- Easter collections down 37.8% (-\$13,036 from last year).
- RAMR during Covid-19 closure, down 36.1% (-11.0% for the year).
- Religious Ed income down 28.0% (-\$24,283).
- Fundraising down 31.3%.
- Outreach up 32.5%. Once again, parishioners were very generous.
- Verizon Income up 16.2%.
- PPP Loan in the amount of \$68,390 was enormously helpful in covering our salaries. No positions were eliminated during the shutdown. Everyone worked from home and some took on new roles during this time.
- Overall, income for the year to date is up 1% from last year. The increase is due mainly because of the PPP loan.

Expenses:

- Salaries down 1.3% and fringe benefits are down 7.5%.
- Fundraising expenses down 19.9%.
- Religious Ed expenses are down 59.2%. We were able to more accurately plan out materials needed to save on overall costs.
- Outreach expenses up 51.5% (+\$2,863). People were incredibly generous monetarily and through food donations. We were well stocked and able to help all those who came to us in need.
- Youth Ministry was down 61.2%. We were unable to have a Youth Retreat this year.
- Office expenses up 5.4% from last year. Phone expenses increased from last year and we upgraded to a color copier machine.
- Rectory expenses YTD are down 5.2% from last year.
- Liturgical expenses down 47.9%.
- Total expenses YTD down 10.6% (-26.5% for the quarter).

Projects:

- We had new driveway signs installed this quarter, with improved lighting to highlight the entrance way.
- We started a “Paypal” account for the church website which was instrumental, especially at the onset of the closure, of offering parishioners an additional credit card option to make Sunday collection donations, Mass card donations, donations to Outreach, and pay for Religious Ed. tuition.