

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!

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 6, 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.

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of September 6, 9AM Mass

Mon. Henri-Robert Lamarque
Tue. Janet Smith
Wed. John Schultz Sr.
Thu. Mary Shipman

Saturday, September 12th, 5 PM Mass

Denise Lamarque, Hannah Maikish, Mary Cully, Caroline Lamb, Catherine Lamb, Matt Akuntius, Thomas Kearnes

Sunday, Sept. 13th, 24th Sun. in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM Lynn Marshik
11:30 AM Tom Dunn, Samuel Caivano, Agnes Bryan, William Scarola, Francis Fuimano, Gino Cusano



Scripture Readings for September 13, 2020



+ *Sirach 27:30 - 28:7*
+ *Romans 14:7-9*
+ *Matthew 18:21-35*

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, September 7th, for Labor Day. There is a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

IS THAT ANOTHER SEASON THAT HAS PASSED?

by Father Michael

I know summer does not officially end for a few more weeks, but once Labor Day hits, it feels like it is over. There were some fun things that happened during these months that I fondly remember. I hope you have a few of those happy memories as well. Since March, there is something about the passing of time that has taken on a new character. For me, there is an overshadowing numbness or malaise that has woven itself into the passing hours, days, and weeks of life. I know what we are going through is not forever, but it does have its challenging moments when you are still in the midst of it.

This week for the first time in my thirty-one years of priesthood, I celebrated a wedding with only the bride, groom, and two witnesses present. Never would I have thought circumstances would lend itself to this kind of low-key celebration. But, in this instance, it was what was needed. Doing things in new and different ways has become a way of life, not just at the Church, but in most areas of life.

One of the tasks that was delayed for almost five months was my visiting our local parishes. Once a year, as Dean for this area, I need to visit each parish to review the books that contain the Sacramental records. It's not an overwhelming duty, but it is a requirement of Canon Law. I enjoy visiting other parishes. Many of them do creative and life-giving things, but I always appreciate coming back to Holy Cross. There is a similarity of experiences in the different faith communities I visited. Most parishes have about one third of the usual crowd attending Mass on weekends. There is added complexity to virtually every part of parish life, and rarely is there universal agreement on the way things ought to be done. Overall, the financial situation is not as grave as you think it might be. Individuals who have the financial means have really stepped up to support their parishes during this crisis. That is certainly the case here at Holy Cross.

The next major event we are addressing is Confirmation. Usually a bishop comes to celebrate the Sacrament with our young people. However, we were given notice that the bishops would not be the ones to confer the Sacrament for the balance of 2020. Delegation has been given to all pastors to celebrate Confirmation in their own parishes. We will be offering six Masses to take place the last weekend in September and the first weekend in October. A great deal of effort and planning is taking place so that these days will be engaging and uplifting to all who attend. If ever we needed a heavy-duty dose of the Spirit, this is the time.

Don't get discouraged. The long journey continues, but it continues with the love and grace of our God.

RCIA

WHAT IS RCIA?

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)* is the process by which adults are initiated into the Catholic Church.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

RCIA is open to:

- all those who are unbaptized and express a desire to learn about the Catholic faith;
- all those who are baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to explore membership in the Catholic Church;
- Catholics who have been baptized but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

WHAT CAN ONE EXPECT AT RCIA?

Individuals who go through the *RCIA* process can expect:

- to know themselves and God better,
- to be supported in prayer by the entire parish community, and
- to understand Catholic teachings and practices more clearly.

All that is required is a desire to grow and learn.

If you know someone who might be interested in *RCIA*, please pass this information along.

If you wish to participate in *RCIA*, or if you have any questions about it, please call Jude Pickel at (631) 265-2200x116



PARISH NEWS

Religious Education



Registration for Religious Education is now past due. If you have not yet registered your child/children, please do so **ASAP**, as we will be starting parent meetings in mid-September. Your child/

children will not receive their book or enrollment code unless we have a registration form for 2020-2021 on file. Thank you for your cooperation.



*Holy Cross
welcomes
these children
Baptized in August*

**Andrew Stephen Cranshaw
Dominic Alexander Cutrone
Thomas Lewis Jones
Marilyn Sage Nunez
Hudson Lyn-Anne Perry
Elliott Cole Sarle
Nora Leigh Superina
Carson Alexander Zych**



Banns of Marriage

First Time

Danielle Baribault & Michael Lanciotti

Second Time

Ashley Murphy & Thomas Killoran

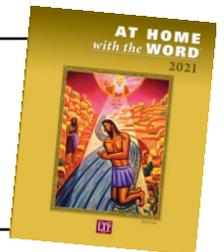


Pray for Our Military

SPC(E-4) David Basler
Cpl. Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
SA Anthony J. DeNicola
FC2 Lane Dyar
Brandon Ferrara
SSG Daniel Frost
MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA
WO Christopher Kaminsky
Sgt. Michael J. Knipper, USMC
SSGT Ryan Mauldin
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
Lt. Ryan Montvydas
IT1 Jason Mulderig
LCpl. Michael Palagonia, USMC

We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service. We will continue to pray for them through 2020. Please let us know at any time during 2020 if their service is finished, their title has changed, or you would like continued prayers through 2021. May God bless all who serve our nation. Pray for Peace!

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



We pray for the following parishioners whose funerals were celebrated at Holy Cross in August:

**Michael Bazik
Thomas Dunn
Ralph Fandetta
Dorothy Sclafani
Alice Wynne**

May they rest in peace,
and may their loved ones be consoled.

Catholic University of America Collection

The Catholic University of America, located in Washington, D.C., is the national university of the Catholic Church in the U.S. Next week is the National Collection for The CUA. Every dollar given directly supports financial aid for students from dioceses across the country, including our diocese. Thank you for your support.

LITURGY BYTES

Matrimony



To continue reflecting on the Sacraments of Vocation & Service, this week let us look at the Sacrament of Matrimony.

I think we would all agree that the family is the social context for understanding the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Catholic Church. The Church describes marriage as a covenant, a lifetime partnership between a man and a woman for the purpose of mutual well-being and the nurturing of children. The couple can be seen as witnesses to the world of God's unconditional and covenantal love. Pope Francis speaks of how Christian marriage is a sign of how much Christ loves his Church.

Marriage existed prior to Christianity. In the early Christian era, it was generally seen as a civil, not religious, matter. It only slowly came under the auspices of the Church. However, we do see an awareness of marriage throughout Scripture. The image of marriage was used by the prophet Hosea, for example, to illustrate the bond between God and Israel. In the New Testament, Jesus' miracle of the wine was an early public act that occurred at a family affair – the wedding feast at Cana! Historians also tell us that there was early evidence of a bishop blessing a Christian couple after they married civilly, but it was not a widespread practice. It was not until the year 1000 AD

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LITURGY BYTES **continued**

that marriage was fully under Church jurisdiction. Slowly, it became the expectation that marriages were blessed inside a Church with witnesses. It was in the 12th century, that a ceremony evolved with the priest as presider. Protestant reformers rejected the idea that marriage was a Sacrament instituted by Christ (around the 16th century). However, the Council of Trent in response to the Reformation, clearly reaffirmed marriage as a Sacrament.

Whenever a couple decides to get married, there are spiritual and pastoral preparations needed. On top of that, there are wedding preparations and reception details which often take on a life of their own. In addition to these concerns, family pressures can also add to the tensions experienced by some engaged couples leading them away from the spiritual and pastoral preparations the Church requires. Many couples, once they have experienced what the Church offers to those preparing for marriage, realize how important and worthwhile the Pre-Cana experience is for their future together. Opportunities are offered for in-parish Pre-Cana, over a period of weeks or weekend experiences on a diocesan level to help accommodate everyone's schedule. Practical and spiritual elements are presented guiding the couple to realize how important their communication with each other is, as well as their beliefs. The bride and groom confer the Sacrament on each other. They are the ministers of the Sacrament. Through the grace of the Sacrament, the couple helps each other to attain holiness in their married life and in welcoming and educating their children.

Parishes thrive because of the married couple's and the family's service to the needs of the local Church. Just as the community needs the witness of a family, the married couple needs community. Service can take on many forms through word, action, and charity, locally and globally. Let us continue to pray for our married couples as they respond to the gospel message.

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