

# The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

[www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset](https://www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset)

## LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



Forgive  
your  
brother  
or sister  
from  
your  
heart.

Matthew 18:35

## Come and pray with us!

### 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 13, 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 Graziouse**  
**Bob Grieco      Chuck Madden**  
**Olivia Melia      Joseph Santamaria**  
**Eric Schwarz      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](mailto:pothc@optonline.net).

## Scripture Readings for September 20, 2020



- + *Isaiah 55:6-9*
- + *Philippians 1:20-24, 27*
- + *Matthew 20:1-16*

## Mass Intentions Schedule

### Week of September 13, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Jean Straple  
**Tue.** George Daly  
**Wed.** Pat Del Prete Jr.  
**Thu.** Kathleen Thomas (living) &  
Michael Cully (living)



### Saturday, September 19th, 5 PM Mass

Nancy Gallagher, Bobby Kieley, Maryann Follo,  
Isabella Smith, Maria Ligabo

### Sunday, Sept. 20th, 25th Sun. in Ordinary Time

9:30 AM Dominick Pizzurro  
11:30 AM Teresa Lamb, Tom Dunn, Jean Straple,  
Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto, Cathleen  
Callahan

# BELATED LABOR DAY THOUGHTS

*by Father Michael*

A phrase I have used numerous times over the past six months is “this \_\_\_\_\_ has been a \_\_\_\_\_ like no other.” I have filled in the blank with Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost, First Communion, summer, etc. I now add Labor Day to that list. I am writing this article on Labor Day itself. I am reflecting upon how the nature of many people’s jobs has changed significantly through this crisis.

Certainly the work of Health Care workers took on heroic dimensions during these days. Many folks who may have considered their work to be somewhat ordinary now found themselves with distinction as being “essential workers.” Transit employees, cashiers, sanitation workers suddenly found themselves working under very demanding conditions. For those in law enforcement, the work became even more difficult. The job description for many changed overnight; ask anyone involved in education. For many people, they had to adjust and turn their dining room tables into their new offices. Sadly, some people’s jobs vanished in a heartbeat and are not rushing back anytime soon. We look at our own work and the work of others in a different light because of all that has happened.

Allow me to once again express my gratitude to the Pastoral Team and Staff here at Holy Cross. Some parishes shut down various parts of their operations once the crisis hit. All aspects of our parish life continued even through the worst of the days; Religious Education, Parish Outreach, and even our office all continued to do what needed to be done. (There were some parts of parish life that we were prohibited from doing, like baptisms and public Masses). I am very proud of and grateful for the efforts and commitment of those who work here at Holy Cross. One of the reasons we were able to continue our work was because of the financial support of so many generous parishioners. In the midst of difficult times, blessings abounded.

The passing of life often leads us to places we never would have imagined nor would we have chosen on our own. When I was in the seminary, there was no training for ministering to the victims of terrorism (9/11) or how to maintain parish ministry via Facebook and the internet. How many parents of young children ever anticipated having to manage family life in the midst of a pandemic? But this moment in time has brought us to these new realities. Yes, there are reasons to complain and lament our situation. But there are also opportunities to trust and be embraced by our loving God like never before. We continue to journey together in the hope that we will walk with God who continues to bring us life.

# 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) 265-2200 x116



# LITURGY BYTES

## *Our Beautiful Worship Space*



COVID-19 has brought some new faces into our praying community, because of our live-streaming of weekday and Sunday 11:30 Masses. Some new faces are fairly local to this area of Long Island and others live farther away. Whatever the case, we welcome each of you and are happy you have joined us for the most beautiful prayer of the Mass.

Some folks have asked about our unique church, or worship area, as we call it, so I would like to give you a little history. St. Joseph's Church in Ronkonkoma, a/k/a "the Mother Church of the Ronkonkomas," was one of the largest parishes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, serving at one point 16,000 families. The diocese sought to establish smaller faith communities in this growing area of Suffolk County, and so in 1988, three new parishes were established: Holy Cross, Nesconset; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Lake Ronkonkoma; and Resurrection, Farmingville. Even with these three new parishes, St. Joseph's has still maintained between five and six thousand families. The buildings for these three new communities took a few years to be constructed. Holy Cross was the last one to open at its present location here on Old Nichols Road.

As you enter the church, (the worship area), the first thing you encounter is the baptismal font with the flowing waters. Today, unfortunately, the font is kept covered because of the guidelines imposed by COVID-19. The living water that Christ offers us is beautifully symbolized by the flowing water of our font.

*Continued on Next Page*

# LITURGY BYTES **continued**

Each time we come for Mass, we should mark ourselves with this baptismal water as a reminder of what began for us at our Baptism. *We all look forward to the day when it will be safe to uncover this beautiful symbol of our faith.*

Standing by the font is the Paschal candle which reminds us that we are invited to share in the light of Christ. Parents know well this symbol, as they are presented with a smaller version at their child's Baptism being reminded to keep the light of Christ shining in the life of their newly baptized baby.

Another reminder takes place at the Easter Vigil, when we hear this prayer offered: "May all who are buried with Christ in the death of Baptism rise also with Him to the newness of life." At funerals, I am sure many of us recall these beautiful words as the baptismal water is sprinkled on the casket at the door of the church.

*Something also to point out in this area of the church, is that the font is at the base of one of the columns which supports the roof.* On the front of this column is the ambry, which houses the sacred oils blessed each Holy Thursday by the bishop. These oils consist of: the sacred chrism used for Baptism, Confirmation, the ordination of priests and bishops, and for altars and churches at the time of their dedication; the oil of the sick used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick; and the oil of the catechumens used for the unbaptized - sacred symbols used at special moments in the life of the people of God!

Next week, we will continue on our tour with the many interesting facets of our worship area. On your next visit to the church, why not look more closely at the items mentioned above.

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

# 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.

## Our Prayer Pages



*Grace to you and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ*

*Philemon 1:3*

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.)

### Banns of Marriage



#### Second Time

Danielle Baribault & Michael Lanciotti

#### Third Time

Ashley Murphy & Thomas Killoran

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



## 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. This 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.

## Remember “Kevin Bacon”

Don't forget to feed "Kevin Bacon" your quarters when you come to Mass on Sundays! Your donation benefits Heifer International.



# SPECIAL COLLECTION

## Remembering and Caring for our Senior Priests

***Do you ever think about a favorite Pastor or Parish Priest and wonder how he is and where he may be living?***

Well, for our Senior Priests who are living at St. Pius X Residence, life is good and sometimes very busy.



*"We are very happy that more and more of our Priests are taking advantage of this wonderful facility. We thank you for your support, we depend on it, especially now with the increasing costs we are experiencing. We couldn't do it without you!"*

- Rev. Msgr. Thomas Costa,  
Vicar for Senior Priests

*"Since I arrived at St. Pius X, I have found living here like being at home. I have found much happiness with my fellow priests and in the entire community, and I especially appreciate the support I receive. Thank you for helping to make this home possible."*

- Rev. Msgr. T Peter Ryan



Even in retirement our senior priests retain roles as our shepherds, and St. Pius X enables these dedicated men who live there to be fully engaged members of the community. *"Still on duty,"* they serve as our teachers, counselors, and spiritual leaders.

**The special collection for retired priests living at St. Pius X Residence will take place next weekend. Please be as generous as possible! Thank You!**

[www.drvc.org/stpiusx](http://www.drvc.org/stpiusx)