

# The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +  
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**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME, NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME, ILL AND YOU CARED FOR ME, IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME. Matthew 25:35-36**

**Come and pray with us!**

**Christ the King - November 22, 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 8:00 AM, 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!

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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  
Mrs. Kelley Mowat  
Coordinators 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

*Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You...*

Please pray for those in our parish who are sick, their families and caregivers:

**Claire Becker**

**Patricia Becker**

**Ann Callari**

**Manuela Diaz**

**Ann Egan**

**Jim Emerson**

**Sienna Fricke**

**Phil Graziose**

**Bob Grieco**

**Debbie Jablinowski**

**Gerald Losquadro**

**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 or email to pothc@optonline.net .

## Mass Intentions Schedule



*New Life  
in Christ*

### Week of November 22nd, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Ted Teng  
**Tue.** Debbie Stahley  
**Wed.** Victor Lamarque  
**Thu.** People of the Parish

### Saturday, November 28th, 5 PM Mass

John Paul Onysko, James McCaffrey, Kathleen Bryan, Eric Schwarz, Harriet McLasky, James Roy

### Sunday, November 29th, 1st Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
9:30 AM Cecil & Ann Wirth  
11:30 AM Anthony Brady, Theresa & Joe Pellechi, Janis C.J. Chieca, George Daly, Jean Straple, Giuseppina Ahrens

### *Scripture Readings for November 29, 2020*



+ Isaiah 63:16-17,19; 64:2-7  
+ 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
+ Mark 13:33-37

# LET'S START WINDING DOWN 2020

by Father Michael

The calendar year does not end for another month. But today's celebration of Christ the King is the final Sunday celebration of the liturgical year. It is one step closer in concluding a year that has been more than challenging.

We will have our annual Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday at 9:00 AM. We don't anticipate an overflowing crowd, so no reservations are needed nor will seats be assigned. For those who are not able to come in person, we will be live streaming the Mass. We invite you to bring a non-perishable food item for our pantry if you are able. And we invite you to bring an item that will be part of your Thanksgiving table for a blessing.

It is with a spirit of gratitude that we will offer a special blessing and word of thanks to MaryAnne McCulloch next Saturday at the 5:00 Mass. MaryAnne has been part of Parish Outreach from the beginning of the parish. She would now like to enjoy that chapter of life called retirement. She is not moving away; she and her husband, Tom, will remain in the parish. But we would like to formally offer our gratitude for her years of faithful service.

Through the course of the past eight months I have repeatedly used a phrase, "this will be a (Lent, Easter, Pentecost, First Communion, Confirmation, etc.) like no other." The list of events seems to ever grow longer. And so I say, "This will be a Thanksgiving like no other." On a practical level, there are many families that have made changes in their traditions; tables may have fewer chairs around them and travel plans may have been curtailed. However, the more pressing question is how has our spirit of gratitude been affected by the crisis? What are the things you are grateful for that in the past you would have taken for granted? What are the things you wish were part of your life, but are not possible, at this moment? As difficult as this crisis has been, it has allowed a different light to shine on our lives. We need to be people of faith and understand how God's Spirit is at work in the midst of all that we now embrace.

Thanksgiving makes for a "shorter week" in terms of regular business days. Being the office will not be open on Thursday and Friday, we are making a change in our procedures for next weekend only. We will not be taking reservations for any of the Masses on November 28 and 29. The reservation process will resume for the weekend of December 5 and 6. This year Christmas will be more complicated than ever before. Details will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead.

Thanksgiving blessings to all, regardless of how the day unfolds for you.



Join us for a formal **Thank You** to **MaryAnne McCulloch** on her retirement as Coordinator of Parish Outreach!

**Saturday, November 28th, at the 5:00 PM Mass**





# PARISH NEWS



## Celebrants for Nov. 28/29 Masses

5:00 PM Fr. Michael  
8:00 AM Fr. Michael  
9:30 AM Fr. Frank Eisele  
11:30 AM Fr. Frank

*The Bread and Wine for the week November 22-28 have been donated by the Lamarque family in thanksgiving for all God's blessings.*



## Banns of Marriage Second Time

Alexa Catania & Ronald Kempski

The Parish Office is closed on Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving holiday.

There is a **Mass of Thanksgiving** on Thursday, November 26th, at 9AM.

## Mass of Thanksgiving

*The Parish of the Holy Cross Invites You and Your Family to Celebrate*



# THANKSGIVING



Begin Thanksgiving day with your parish family at the 9 AM Mass.

Please bring a food item from your table for a blessing.

Each family will receive bread that will be blessed to take home.

Assist Parish Outreach to replenish the pantry with any of the following items:

***Coffee, tea, soup, gravy, tuna, pudding and cookies.***

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Monetary Donations in Support of the Outreach Thanksgiving Project



Cash, Check or Supermarket Gift Cards are greatly appreciated to help defray the expenses of our Thanksgiving program. You can mark your envelope "Thanksgiving" and drop it in the collection basket or mail it to the Outreach office. We thank you for your continuing support of our Outreach ministry.

# PARISH OUTREACH

## CHRISTMAS ANGELS



This weekend and next weekend, Angels will be available in the baskets on the Altar pillars and throughout the Worship Center. Due to Covid, we have placed extra baskets with Angels to allow for social distancing. We ask that you do not congregate at the baskets. If you would like to help a needy family this Christmas, choose an Angel, purchase the item written on it and return by Sunday, December 6th.

We are requesting gift cards to local stores (Kohl's, Target, Walmart) to enable our families to purchase for themselves and their children the items they need. We are also requesting supermarket gift cards to enable each household to have a special holiday meal.

(Reminder: gift cards need to be activated at the register)

Some Angels are coded (orange, purple, green, red) for the agencies we reach out to each year (Mercy Haven, Talbot House, Pronto, Olsen's Rest Home). If you choose one of these Angels, place the Angel tag on top and **return** to the Atrium by **December 6th**. **Note: Red tags (for Olsen's) can be wrapped. There is no need to wrap the other gifts.**

We thank you for the Spirit of Generosity you bring to our project each year.

### **Reminder: The Angel tags are coded as follows:**

- BLUE:** Families of the Holy Cross Outreach Program
- RED:** Our friends at Olsen's Rest Home
- PURPLE:** Talbot House, the Catholic Charities crisis center for those struggling with addiction
- GREEN:** Toys for children in the Brentwood area serviced by Pronto
- ORANGE:** Mercy Haven, an organization that provides community residence housing for those living with mental illness
- PINK:** Supermarket cards to enable a family to have a special meal

# JOIN US THIS ADVENT!

## *AN INVITATION TO ADVENT PRAYER*



In this extraordinary time of waiting – for a return to “normalcy,” for a cure, for a vaccine - what can the season of Advent teach us? Advent is a *season of waiting*, and, as we anticipate the joy of Christmas, Advent offers us rich messages of grace and hope.

Can you take some time away with the God who loves you,  
and allow the promise of the season to fill your heart?

Please join us as we pray with words, music, and silence on:

**the 4 Wednesdays of Advent,  
December 2, 9, 16, 23, 2020  
from 1:30 – 2:30 PM or 7:00 – 8:00 PM**

**Due to Covid-19 restrictions, participation at each session is limited to 12 people**

*Please fill in the tear-off below and return it to the Parish Office by November 29:*

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to attend **Advent Prayer** in the \_\_\_ afternoon \_\_\_ evening.

# LITURGY BYTES

## The Final Days



This weekend, November 21 and 22, the Church celebrates the feast of Christ the King, marking the end of the liturgical year. Today we celebrate Jesus as Lord of love, revealing God's love for all people and calling his followers to live in that love. In the readings today, we are reminded to care for those most vulnerable in our world. An amazingly simple way to keep this in mind is seeing that Jesus is present in everyone — yes, even in those imprisoned, hungry, homeless and those who are strangers in our midst. When we care for them, we are caring for Jesus. Easy to say, but so difficult to live it. Yet, during these months of the pandemic, we saw it being lived before us by many people, right here in this local community and across our land. Most especially this week with Thanksgiving upon us, food is pouring into the pantry. Once again, our sisters and brothers in need will receive the blessings of the generosity of people they do not know. It is so real in our hearts to know that when we seek and serve the vulnerable, we are truly serving Our Lord.

Also, this weekend we re-commission and bless those who serve in the various liturgical ministries of the parish at each of the Masses. We have added a few new ministries to the traditional ones because of COVID-19. Newly added are the Reservation Crew who check people in at the Masses, greet them at the door keeping an accurate count of the numbers for each Mass, escort them to their seats and guide them in maintaining social distance when inside the Worship Area. Another new ministry is our HC TV crew who provide the words on the screens for the prayers and readings of each Mass. Since we had to dispense with having books in church, this new technology has saved the day. Also, another blessing for our parish has been the live streaming of daily Mass and the 11:30 Sunday Mass for those parishioners praying with us from their homes. Wonderful, generous, and caring people continue to bless this parish with many graces for which we are all incredibly grateful!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a safe, healthy, and blessed week!

*Michele Hahn*



# MEMORIES...

As I move toward this new life adventure and reflect on my time here at Holy Cross, so many grace-filled moments come to mind.

Over 30 years ago there was a dream of the "Church on the Hill"—the community promising a welcoming, accepting spirit and a joyful presence. So many of us were drawn to that vision of Being Church and worked to bring the dream to reality. It was a unique and blessed experience.



That promise continues to be realized here every day. The words of the Welcoming Christ by our doors: "Come to me all of you who are



burdened and I will give rest" are reflected in the phrase I hear so often in the Outreach office — "If it wasn't for Holy Cross I don't know what I would do or where I'd be..." It has been expressed by the woman struggling in an abusive relationship, the parents dealing with a child in the throes of addiction, the hungry family in need of food and

drink, the household struggling to meet bills due to job loss or serious illness. Being able to walk those difficult journeys with them has only been possible because of the generous committed support of the parishioners of Holy Cross.

Although I couldn't have envisioned those years ago that my journey would be in Outreach ministry, I recognize that the Spirit is always leading us to where we need to be. I was so blessed to share this ministry with my partner for over 20 years, Connie Calabro, who helped make the Outreach program what it is today. We laughed a lot, we teared up many times, but we developed a close personal friendship that I so cherish.

Continued on next page



# MEMORIES... continued

You may not be aware that some of the Outreach Core Volunteers have been working with our Outreach folks for well over 20 years. Mildred Williams, for one, has been involved longer than I have — now that is a commitment! I am truly grateful for the gifts they share and for the compassion they show to all who come to Outreach for help. So to Jane Wirth, Mary Inghilterra, Donna Akuntius, Liliana Donlon, Pat Hurley, Carol Ann Schultz, Michele Alderdice, Elie Celauro and, of course, Mildred — thank you for all you do.

To the parishioners of Holy Cross, who have so touched my heart during this pandemic year by contributing food and many monetary donations even through a total lockdown, YOU are truly the best!

I know we are all aware that Holy Cross has been gifted with wonderful pastors in Fr. Joe, Fr. Bill, Fr. Jim and now Fr. Michael. Every one of them made sure Parish Outreach remained an integral part of the mission of our community. Each has been a true partner in serving those struggling in our midst.

To the members of the Pastoral Team, past and present, "my buddies," I was so privileged to work beside all of you, and I am always amazed at your dedication to keeping the welcoming and compassionate spirit of Holy Cross alive and growing. I will miss you all.

It has been a great ride! God bless you all!

In love and gratitude,  
Mary Anne



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello everyone! Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games? Do you want to build more of an understanding about yourself and your faith? If you answered "Yes!" to any one of those questions, then you **MUST** check out the **Holy Cross Youth Group!** You will be glad you did!



If you made your Confirmation, then come and check out the wonderful opportunities the Youth Group has for you! We would love to see you! The Holy Cross Youth Group is the perfect opportunity for you to continue to grow in your faith and build relationships with others in the parish. **We will be meeting at church on Sunday, December 6, from 6-8PM!**

So, if you have any questions or concerns, or if you are thinking about joining us and you would like more information, then please do not hesitate to contact Allie Roecklein, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, at [hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com](mailto:hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com) or call the parish office. Thank you!

# PARISH OUTREACH

## Homebound and Hospitalized

Are you, or someone you know in the parish, homebound or anticipating an operation or treatment for cancer? We in Holy Cross are eager to know in a more personal way our parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized. Often, we do not hear of a person's illness or inability to join us for Sunday Mass. Please call 265-2200 x113 or stop by the office to let Parish Outreach know of these parishioners who are so special to us. We really depend on you.



Parish Outreach sends cards, on behalf of our parish, to those who are ill or hospitalized. Our homebound folks receive friendly telephone calls by Outreach volunteers to keep up the connection and to assess ways the parish can be present to these loved parishioners. At Advent and Easter time a volunteer will visit them and bring a gift from the parish community. Eucharistic Ministers are also available to bring communion to the homebound who desire it.

These are some of the ways Holy Cross reaches out to the homebound and hospitalized. Please help us by contacting Parish Outreach or a member of the Pastoral Team if you know of anyone we can serve in their time of need.

# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday, November 22nd</b>	All Masses
• ANGEL GIFTS COLLECTED	Atrium
• BAPTISMS	1 PM Worship Area
<b>Tuesday, November 24th</b>	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Atrium
• BOOK CLUB	7PM Atrium
<b>Thursday, November 26th</b>	9 AM
• THANKSGIVING MASS	Worship Area
<i>(The Parish Office is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.)</i>	
<b>Friday, November 27th</b>	
<i>(The Parish Office is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday.)</i>	
<b>Sunday, November 29th</b>	All Masses
• ANGEL GIFTS COLLECTED	Atrium

# SPECIAL COLLECTION

*This weekend, at the offertory, we will also be collecting for the **Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD)**.*

*The CCHD allocates funds to community projects that promote the mission and vision of CCHD while adhering to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church. Among the projects of the CCHD are: creating resilient communities, access to housing, and strong schools; building a just economy and protecting worker rights; economic empowerment of new businesses, jobs, and financial opportunity; reforming the criminal justice system; defending the rights of immigrants; protecting the environment; and expanding access to health care and empowering persons with disabilities. For more information, please pick up a flyer in the atrium as you leave Mass today.*

*Thank you for your support of this important collection!*

# 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





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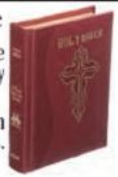
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