

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!



Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. Mark 13:35

Come and pray with us!

First Sunday of Advent - November 29, 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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Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
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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
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

Week of November 29th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Kathleen Bryan

Tue. Greg Wirth, Krysia Weller (living)

Wed. Richie Catapano

Thu. Ted Teng

Saturday, December 5th, 5 PM Mass

Father Joseph Mondel, Joan McKeehan, Ronald Craig Sullivan, John Cummings, Rose Dairty, Daniel Creighton Kirk

Sunday, December 6th, 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM Jack Hough

11:30 AM Elisa Marotta Fini, Dave O'Riordan, Michael Burden, Walter O'Hara, Matthew Corapi, Frank Schiavone



*New Life
in Christ*

Scripture Readings for December 6, 2020



+ Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

+ 2 Peter 3:8-14

+ Mark 1:1-8

EMBRACE TRUST

by Father Michael

This weekend begins a new liturgical year. A time of new beginning brings with it the possibility of renewing hope and looking forward to what lies ahead. If ever there was a time when folks were looking for a new beginning and a time of hope, it is now. However, the reality seems to be that there will still be challenging times with us for at least a while. Rather than giving into despair, we offer you a theme for this season of Advent: Embrace Trust.

There is a challenge and an opportunity to dig down and rely on the gift of faith that dwells within each of us. Are we able spiritually to “step up” and believe that our God will lead, protect, and journey with us? Many folks are feeling a little weary and frustrated with life, but we need to keep moving forward. To walk alone can feel hopeless. To believe God is by our side can give us strength beyond measure. This may not be the traditional Advent message but one that is most appropriate for where we find ourselves: Embrace Trust. There’s more to come on this as we journey through this season of waiting.

This weekend (at the Saturday 5:00 Mass) we offer a formal thank you to MaryAnne McCulloch. MaryAnne has worked in Parish Outreach from the very beginning of Holy Cross. For twenty of those years she was a Co-Coordinator with Connie Calabro who retired in 2016. This is now the time that MaryAnne also wishes to begin that chapter of life called retirement. She and her husband, Tom, will continue to be members of Holy Cross.

It was MaryAnne’s plan to retire back in June. But, in case you didn’t notice, life became a little complicated. MaryAnne did not allow the challenges of March or April to deter her willingness to serve those who were in need. She was here most every day providing food and other assistance. There were other parishes that completely shut down in the height of the crisis. Holy Cross can be proud of what was accomplished during very difficult times.

MaryAnne is a faithful and gifted woman. She brought many gifts to her ministry. I think I am most grateful for her sense of balance in seeking a peaceful path even through stormy seas. She embodies wisdom which is a key that can open many doors in seeking solutions and offering hope. Thank you MaryAnne, for all the help and support you offered me. And thank you for all the beautiful work you did in offering love and kindness to those who have come to Outreach through the years.

The work of Parish Outreach will continue. As I announced a few weeks ago, Ms. Kelley Mowat will take on the role of coordinating that Office. She will continue to work with a core group of faithful and committed volunteers. We are a blessed parish. Embrace Trust.

PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



December 5th/6th

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



*Holy Cross welcomes
these children
Baptized in
November*

**William John Carey
Sophia Alexis Chiofalo
Sawyer Michael Downing
Isabella Leigh Napolitano
Angelo Joseph Ranieri
Sofia Grace Ranieri
Chase Thomas Stoever
Ryan Peter Stoever
Layla Sophia Wirth**

Banns of Marriage



First Time

Alyssa Calia & Jonathan Nilsen

Third Time

Alexa Catania & Ronald Kempiski

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
Cpl 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 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!



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

***Julia Bazik
Matteo Santulin
Patricia Stapleton
Regina V. Whalley***

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

Christmas Mass Intentions

In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Christmas Masses, there are cards in the Atrium for you to write your special intentions. These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Christmas Masses.



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.

PARISH OUTREACH



Important Reminder For All Our Shoppers

Next weekend, **December 5th/6th**, will be your **LAST OPPORTUNITY** to return your angel gifts or gift cards. Remember to indicate the amount of the gift card on the envelope or on the card itself.



Our Outreach committee will be sorting the gifts by Sunday, December 6th. **Unfortunately, gifts that come in after December 6th may not go to the people in need of them.** Thank you for understanding our need to have all Angel items returned by Sunday, December 6th, so that they can be distributed that week.

Reminder: The Angel tags are coded as follows:

- BLUE:** Families of the Holy Cross Outreach Program
- RED:** Our friends at Olsen's Rest Home (please wrap gift)
- 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



PARISH OUTREACH

AN OUTREACH THANKSGIVING THANK-YOU!



This year over 50 Outreach families received gift cards for their Thanksgiving meal. We are so thankful to our parishioners for their generosity and overwhelming support to our Thanksgiving Project. Hopefully next year we can return to creating the lovely baskets we have provided in the past.

Special thanks go to Susan Lampach, Donna Akuntius and Joellen May who pulled the project together.

May the blessings of Thanksgiving remain with you and your families during the coming year.

Kelley Mowat

Outreach Food Pantry

Next Saturday and Sunday, **December 5th/6th**, will be our monthly Food Drive for our Parish Outreach Pantry. The following items would be most helpful:

- Toilet Paper
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Body Soap (full size)
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Jelly
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti Sauce



Please don't forget to check expiration dates! It will greatly assist the volunteers who stack the pantry with your donated goods. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

At our 9 AM Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Father Michael blessed the bread for parishioners to take home to their Thanksgiving tables. We would like to thank **Handy Pantry** located at 279 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset, for their generosity in donating this bread!

LITURGY BYTES

Happy New Year



First Sunday of Advent

This weekend we begin another new year in the Church's liturgical cycle so, hence, the "Happy New Year" greeting! This year we are in cycle B where we will hear the Gospel of Mark on most weekends. Also, we enter into the Advent season this weekend as we prepare for Christmas — a busy weekend beginning with Thanksgiving on Thursday and now Advent on top of that.

Our purple cloths, the wreath and the banners adorn the Worship Area reminding us that something has changed. For the next four weeks, we will omit the Gloria from our Mass prayers and hear words of preparation, anticipation and waiting in the Scriptures and in our hymns. Yes, it is no longer Ordinary Time. We formally think and reflect on the coming of Our Lord at Christmas and await the Kingdom of God. Perhaps this year we might focus on doing more, for example, our prayer life and how much time we devote to building up this relationship with our God or how frequently we express our gratitude for all our blessings. As we light the first candle on the Advent wreath, let us make every effort to increase that flame within our hearts to spend some time in prayer in a different way this Advent season. What will you do?

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy week ahead!!!

~~~~*Michele Hahn*

God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of your love.  
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent,  
as we wait and prepare for his coming.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.  
Amen.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



To Our Catechists, Co-Catechists, Volunteers & Helpers,  
in Thanksgiving for all those who give their gifts to our parish,  
whose ministry is God's assurance that the Good News will be  
heard and that young people will be nurtured in the faith.

For your gracious hospitality in opening your hearts and homes to our children,  
for your faithfulness and joy, for your patience and understanding, for the lives you have  
touched...We Thank You!! The Parishioners of the Parish of the Holy Cross

## Level 2

Melissa Bruno  
Tricia Clarke  
Christina Clifford  
Pattie Daly-Matonti  
Rita Dychkowski  
Lisa Eger  
Colleen Feulner  
Amy Jaekle  
Nicole Kearnes  
Jennifer Maringione  
Kathleen Nasta  
Robin Rostron  
Kelly Ruggiero  
Dawn Thelian  
Diana Vitale

## Level 3

Melanie Calefato  
Linda Creighton  
Jennifer Draney  
Brian Dransite  
Anthony Greco  
Amber Lerner  
Jillian Marquart-Legg  
Josephine Matula  
Thomas Mayer  
Jennifer Miller  
Jenine Naples  
Beth Rivalsi  
Lorraine Sarling  
Jenise Scanlon

## Level 4

Michele Alderdice  
Diana Anderson  
Christina Clifford  
Linda Creighton  
Susan Cunningham  
Amy Cusumano  
Rene DiPeri  
Brian Dransite  
Colleen Feulner

Nicole Heller  
Barbara Hoos  
Nicole Kearnes  
Kristin King  
Susan Kurka  
Wade Lendin  
Megan Maloney  
Sally Marselle  
Jaime McGrade  
Tracy Reilly  
Monica Scali  
Jacqueline Siino  
Nicole Taylor  
Angela Wichtendahl

## Level 5

Laura Albanese  
Jeannine Bernardo  
Cheryl Crispo  
Kathleen Delaney  
Jennifer Draney  
Rita Dychkowski  
Darlene Gatien  
Nicole Heller  
Marie-Line Lubin  
Serena Marz  
Kristin McNamara  
Elizabeth Pelan  
Kristin Prete  
Diane Rorick  
Kelly Ruggiero  
Jennifer Saidens  
Cari Sacks  
Monica Scali  
Dawn Thelian  
Erin VanDeusen

## Level 6

Kimberly Arbocus  
Nicole Barkman  
Gabriella Bieler  
Nicole Chwalek  
Christina Clifford

Jennifer D'Agostino  
Theresa DiCocco  
Angelica Dunleavy  
Lisa Eger  
Christine Farrugia  
Colleen Feulner  
Jennifer Intintoli  
Regina Mackay  
Heather Morreale  
Kathleen Nasta  
Elena Phillips  
Lauren Romano  
Vanessa Rivoire  
Christine Svercel  
Mary Ann Visnius  
Melissa Wright  
Jaclyn Young

## Level 7

Lisa Abrams  
Scott Abrams  
Laura Albanese  
Heather Brid  
Lori Canalini  
Tricia Clarke  
Jovanna Fedor  
Joanna Fennell  
Kimberly Gallub  
Elizabeth Gil  
Danielle Hroncich  
Marc Hroncich  
Jennifer Hughes  
Toni Ann Jata  
Rosalinda Kamor  
Donna Keller  
Nicole Keller  
Jennifer Mack  
Christopher Mennella  
Vinessa Monaco  
Susan Moulton  
Tricia Renkowski  
Cari Sacks  
Amber SanFilippo

Nicole Taylor  
Melissa Valentine

## Level 8

Kimberly Arbocus  
Nicole Barkman  
Lynne Landron-Byrne  
Rose Marie Corso  
Diane Cullinan  
Theresa DiCocco  
Eileen Dispirito  
Sandra Fantauzzi  
Christine Farrugia  
Edward Friedmann  
Lori Friedmann  
Kathleen Garbarino  
Victoria Gramarossa  
Angela Hardina  
Lisa McCarty  
Brian McGrade  
Janine Mehlinger  
Theresa Mequia  
Jeanine Mezzanotte  
Roseann Mozian  
Kathleen Nasta  
Kristy Pagliari  
Elena Phillips  
Kristie Scarabino  
Robin Sokol  
Robert Sokol  
Christine Svercel  
Kristin Trojcak  
Jarrod Trojcak  
Mary Ann Viscusi  
Loretta Volino  
Jaclyn Young

## Special Assistants to Religious Ed

Karyn Gillan  
Rosaria Nastasi

# 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 above, 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.

**Here are our upcoming events:**

- **November 29: No Youth Group meeting because it's Thanksgiving weekend. We hope everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving!**
- **December 6: We will be having a Youth Night from 6 to 8PM. Come join us!**

So, if you are thinking about coming to the church to see what we are all about, do it! You will not regret it. Come with a friend or family member, and join us as we continue to grow in the endless love of Christ.

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!

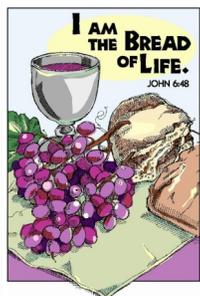
# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Sunday, November 29th</b>   | All Masses   |
| • ANGEL GIFTS COLLECTED        | Atrium       |
| <b>Monday, November 30th</b>   | 4 - 6 PM     |
| • SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES        | Atrium       |
| <b>Tuesday, December 1st</b>   | 10 AM        |
| • IN STITCHES                  | Atrium       |
| <b>Wednesday, December 2nd</b> | 1:30 or 7 PM |
| • ADVENT PRAYER                | Chapel       |
| <b>Thursday, December 3rd</b>  | 10 AM        |
| • SCRIPTURE STUDY              | Atrium       |
| <b>Sunday, December 6th</b>    | All Masses   |
| • ANGEL GIFTS DUE              | Atrium       |
| • YOUTH NIGHT                  | 6-8PM Atrium |

# YOU MAY WANT TO...

Consider a donation of Altar Bread and Wine for a week, especially if your request for a date for a Mass has been taken. Your special occasion or loved one's name will be printed in the bulletin.

Or you may want to make a monetary donation to Holy Cross in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone living. We now have a Book of Memorials and a Book of Honorees. Your donation will be used to purchase needed items for our church. Holy Cross has a practice of not engraving names on benches and other items, but your donation will be recorded in the appropriate book for all posterity.



Our Parish Outreach also accepts donations in memory or honor of someone and has lovely cards that you can send.

For more information, please visit or call the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 x122.

# 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.



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