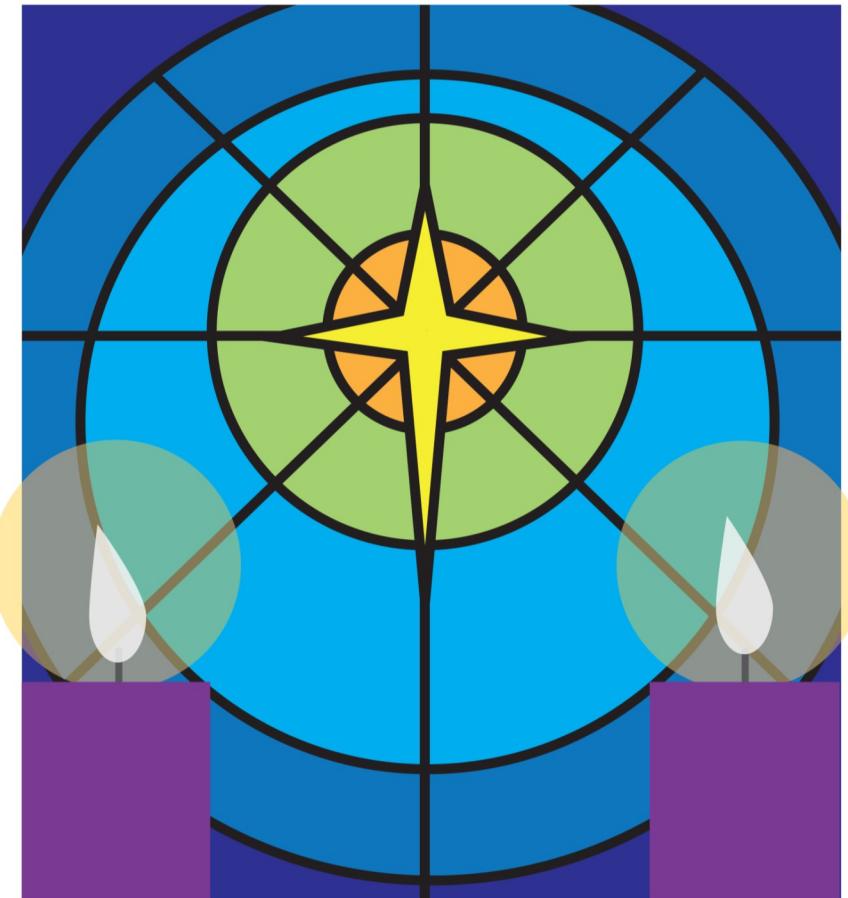


The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

www.pothc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



SECOND SUNDAY
OF
Advent

A voice of one
crying out in the
desert:

*“Prepare the way of
the Lord, make
straight his paths.”*

Mark: 1:3

Come and pray with us!

Second Sunday of Advent - December 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 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!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net

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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. Kelley Mowat, 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:

Claire Becker

Patricia Becker

Ann Callari

Manuela Diaz

Ann Egan

Jim Emerson

Sienna Fricke

Phil Graziouse

Bob Grieco

Debbie Jablinowski

Gerald Losquadro

Chuck Madden

Olivia Melia

Joseph Santamaria

Barbara Sherry

Marlene Starr

Judy Viskupic

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick, please call 631-265-2200 ext. 122.

Scripture Readings for December 13, 2020



- + Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11
- + 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
- + John 1:6-8, 19-28

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of December 6th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Henri-Robert Lamarque

Wed. Al & Tess Giardiello

Thu. Charles Inghilterra

Mon., Dec. 7, Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass

5:00 PM Daniel Walker

Tue., Dec. 8th, Immaculate Conception Masses

9:00 AM Mary Shipman

7:00 PM Respect for All Human Life

Saturday, December 12th, 5 PM Mass

Denise Lamarque, Greg Wirth, Eugene McNamara, Marion Ives, Ursula Pittelli, Frank Perrino

Sunday, December 13th, 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM Jeanette Foy

11:30 AM Anthony DeVito Jr., John O'Shea, Lillian Breene Tucci, Vincent & Adeline DeStefano, Joseph Pellechi, Agnes Shields



TAKE COMFORT AND HAVE HOPE

by Father Michael

The scripture readings for this weekend begin with an instruction to Isaiah to comfort his people in the midst of trials. I think all of us could use a dose of emotional or spiritual comfort as we continue to face challenging days. The scripture readings also remind us that it is out of the desert that the first words of hope are spoken by John the Baptist. It may have been a long and winding road to come to fulfillment, but indeed our Lord comes to strengthen us. May we continue to seek hope in the midst of all that happens.

Last weekend a parishioner asked about our annual wreath sale. Unfortunately, that was another casualty of the Covid crisis. I know many parishioners traditionally bought their wreaths here, and it was a nice fundraiser for the parish. Support your local merchants in getting your wreath and, hopefully, by next year we will be back in business.

OK troops, I could use your help on this one. I'm concerned about Christmas — too many people, too few seats. We have a small core group of dedicated parishioners who have been instrumental in keeping our weekend gatherings safe and organized. For Christmas, we are going to need "all hands on deck." We have some ushers who we can call upon, and other ministers have offered to help. But our need for assistance on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day far exceeds the number of workers we have. If you are able, can you help on these days? We will need workers to arrive well before Mass time. We will need to give specific tasks and train folks for these busy Masses. There is no relying on "we have always done it this way" or crossing our fingers and saying "it always works out." We need to be as organized and prepared as possible.

The Diocese has given permission this year for Masses on Christmas Eve to begin as early as 2:00PM, so we will be able to add a Mass. In spite of that, we need to be prepared to explain to some visitors that we cannot exceed our capacity limitations. By next weekend the Mass schedule will be finalized, and our game plan will be announced.

It's so hard to predict what may happen. As happened on Thanksgiving, many people will find themselves coming up with different ways to celebrate the day. These modified and changed plans could impact which Masses are more or less crowded. I have suggested that the theme for this Advent be "Embrace Trust." I need to do that in terms of my own concerns for this busy day. But it would be comforting to know there will be many helping hands to assist for all that may take place. Thank you for your consideration in helping.

Take comfort, have hope, embrace trust, and onward we go.

PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



December 12th/13th

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



Banns of Marriage Second Time

Alyssa Calia & Jonathan Nilsen

Special Collection

*Next weekend, at the offertory, we will also be collecting for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**.*

Your gift provides vital support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. Thank you for your support of this important collection!

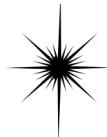
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

The Parish Office is closed on Tuesday for the Holy Day.
Mass times are as follows:

Monday, December 7th, at 5PM
Tuesday, December 8th, at 9AM & 7PM

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.



National Night of Prayer for Life

In the United States, the National Night of Prayer for Life will take place on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8th. Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, we ask for help for our nation.

On December 8th at 7PM we, at Holy Cross, are offering a special Mass at which we will pray for the Respect of All Human Life. Please join us for this special Mass, followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 8:30PM.

PARISH OUTREACH

A VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

TODAY, DECEMBER 6TH, IS THE LAST DAY TO RETURN YOUR ANGEL GIFT CARDS OR GIFTS. Please be sure all Angel items are here by the end of the 11:30 Mass. This afternoon, our Outreach committee will be sorting and allocating the gift cards for our families so that they have time to shop. The agencies will also be picking up their gift items this week.



We hope you will continue to keep our struggling neighbors in your prayers. Thank you for remembering them during this season of joy, hope and peace.

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

A SINCERE THANK YOU!

So many of you took time to express good wishes on my retirement. I am so touched by the cards, heartfelt words and, of course, the lovely Mass last weekend.

Please know you will forever hold a special spot in my heart. Thank you so much.

Mary Anne McCulloch



LITURGY BYTES

Advent Week 2



Many people see Advent as an early Christmas filled only with the busyness of shopping, wrapping, baking and traveling.

However, Advent is really about growing closer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We are preparing our hearts for His coming at Christmas, but also we are preparing our souls for His second coming at the end time.

Most of us realize that this year, preparing for and celebrating the holidays in general might look different than past years.

Beloved traditions like Christmas parties, caroling indoors with friends and family, and a home filled with guests may be difficult or even impossible to pull off this year. While we reassure ourselves that this “new normal” is all temporary (and pray that it is over very soon), we can find joy and inspiration in focusing on what we *can* do to prepare and celebrate this year.

Some families use the Advent calendar with the daily action or work of mercy suggested to help keep the season before them. Others increase their prayer life by attending daily Mass or praying the Rosary. Parishes sponsor giving trees inviting parishioners to assist in helping families with Christmas gifts. We have the Angel program here at Holy Cross which is underway and sparked by so many generous people each year.

The Scriptures on this second Sunday in Advent continue the theme of preparing to welcome the Lord and to adhere to the call of John the Baptist for repentance. How does this task of preparing ourselves for the Lord look to us today in light of these past months?

Have a blessed week; be safe and healthy.

~~~*Michele Hahn*

# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

**Sunday, December 6th**

- ANGEL GIFTS DUE
- YOUTH NIGHT

6-8PM

All Masses  
Atrium  
Atrium

**Monday, December 7th**

- IMMACULATE CONC. VIGIL MASS

5 PM  
Worship Area

**Tuesday, December 8th**

- IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES
- ADORATION (*following 7PM Mass*)

(*The Parish Office is closed for the Holy Day.*)

9AM & 7PM  
Worship Area  
Worship Area

**Wednesday, December 9th**

- ADVENT PRAYER

1:30 PM  
Chapel

**Sunday, December 13th**

- BAPTISMS
- YOUTH NIGHT

6-8PM

1 PM  
Worship Area  
Atrium

# COMMUNITY NEWS

**Hope House Ministries**

**37<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of**

**Hope at Christmas & the Holiday Season**  
**Online Virtual Gala & Online Auction**



Fr. Francis Pizzarelli and Hope House Ministries would like to extend to you a very special invitation to the following event:

**Monday, December 14th, 7:00pm-8:30pm**

Live streamed from Hope House Ministries,  
Music by the H.I.M.S. & Her  
Contact: Theresa Zeis (631)473-8796  
or email [hhmterry@optonline.net](mailto:hhmterry@optonline.net)

Visit [www.hhm.org](http://www.hhm.org) for more information.  
Sponsorship opportunities available

## 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 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:**

- **December 6 & 13: Youth Nights 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, 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!



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Youth Group**



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