

The Parish of the Holy Cross

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LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“May the God of peace make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” *1 Thessalonians 5:23*

Come and pray with us!

Third Sunday of Advent - December 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 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
(The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are live streamed on Facebook.)

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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

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	Ed Hau
Debbie Jablinowski	Gerald Losquadro
Chuck Madden	Olivia Melia
Joseph Santamaria	John Shatinsky
Barbara Sherry	Marlene Starr
Judy Viskupic	Peter Warns

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 December 13th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Michael Long
Tues. Damien Pickel
Wed. Antoinette Scicutess
Thu. Erin & Robert Armstrong (living)
Greg Wirth

Saturday, December 19th, 5 PM Mass

Greg Wirth, Kathleen Grebinger, Michael LaVecchia, Mary Hall, Giovanni LaBoy, Alec Ross

Sunday, December 20th, 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Bernard Cornell, Michael Corcoran, Walter O'Keefe, Thomas Dunn, Joseph & Sarah LaMartina, Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto
11:30 AM Robert Tavis

Scripture Readings for December 20, 2020



+ 2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16
+ Romans 16:25-27
+ Luke 1:26-38



A DAY OF JOY - ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?

by Father Michael

Traditionally the third Sunday of Advent is referred to as Gaudete Sunday, which means joyful Sunday. In the midst of this holy time of waiting, the invitation is to focus on the joy that is part of this season.

I try to be upbeat and positive in these columns. In general, I try to live my life with optimism and hope. Having said all that, these past few weeks have been rough. It might just be me, but the ominous forecasts for Covid in the near future are unsettling. I'm worried about how Christmas will unfold here at the parish. There are a number of parishioners who are dealing with major health issues. There are folks who are grieving, sad, frightened and just grappling to cope with everything that is going on. I was determined to write a hopeful or joyful message for this column, but I was really struggling.

Then, earlier in the week I was going through my email, and one of the messages suddenly left me teary eyed. It was from a young man who was a student when I was chaplain at St. John the Baptist High School. I did not know him well, but I recognized his name. Allow me to share with you some of what he wrote:

My wife and I have been attending church for the past two months, and we both truly feel at home. I was very hesitant to jump to a new parish considering I grew up in my home parish and continued doing so into my adulthood. However, when I walked through the doors two months ago and saw a friendly face, I knew God had put me here for a reason. The service, MUSIC, and your homily on 11/29 with "Embrace Trust" left an impact on my wife and me which allowed us to form a deep bond with the parish. I want to thank you and all of the church for making us feel truly welcome. We have all had a rough year, but I know my wife and I reintroducing ourselves to God and the community has been something we have dearly missed. Thank you.

Just when I was about to proclaim this "joyful Sunday" thing to be a hoax, the Spirit sneaks in the side door and smacks me in the back of the head. Even in the midst of great heartache and uncertainty, God still offers hope. I am reminded what a precious place Holy Cross is and to not take anything of what we do for granted. Even in the midst of dealing with Mass reservations, no opportunity for hospitality, and not doing anything like we used to, the Spirit is at work. I hope you can take a bit of joy from newcomers who have found Holy Cross to be a place of life. I pray you have a bit of pride in being part of this community. You may have to look harder and deeper, but joy does abound. Embrace Trust!

On Monday, December 21, Fr. Michael will be hearing confessions:

- **after the 9:00 Mass up to 10:00AM**
- **6:00 – 7:30 PM.**

PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



December 19th/20th

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

The Bread and Wine for the week December 13th - 19th have been donated in loving memory of Peter & Marie Gallo by Angie & Vincent Gallo.



Banns of Marriage Third Time

Alyssa Calia & Jonathan Nilsen

Christmas Mass Intentions

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

Thank You!

Holy Cross would like to extend a big "Thank You" to **Michele Dry Cleaners**, 65 Smithtown Boulevard, Smithtown. Michele Cleaners has provided free service to Holy Cross in the cleaning of albs as well as seasonal Altar cloths. We are thankful for their generosity!



Special Collections

This weekend 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. Next weekend we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Thank you for your support of these important collections!

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 13: Youth Night from 6 to 8PM. Come join us!



Join the Youth Group

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 or call the parish office. Thank you!

LITURGY BYTES

Rejoice!



This weekend we celebrate Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of Advent. You will notice that the priest's vestments are pink or rose colored, and we light the pink candle on the Advent wreath. The readings this weekend emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming! We continue to embrace trust in our God, along with patience and holy waiting as the celebration of the Nativity draws near.

Another Advent tradition, the Jesse Tree, has reminded me of what many of us are engaged in these days – tracing the roots of our ancestors, as witnessed by the popularity of Ancestors.com. The Jesse Tree symbol, pictured above, stems back to Medieval times. It was, and is, a way for Christians to look to the Hebrew Scriptures to see our God setting the stage for the birth of Jesus, long before it actually happened. Jesus was a real person, with a family tree and ancestors, like all of us.

The Jesse tree is named for Jesse, father of King David, from whose descendants Jesus was born 1000 years later. The Old Testament prophecy points to a Savior, or Messiah, to come from this very family tree as written by the prophet Isaiah: “A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” (Isaiah 11:1)

The symbols on the Jesse Tree point to events and persons that stand out in our history of God and His people, leading up to Jesus' coming. They show us the unveiling of God's promise, bit by bit, as He reaches out over the centuries to invite His children to share ever more fully in friendship and life. The tree is adorned with symbols each day of Advent and in some parishes is placed in a conspicuous place in the church as a reminder of the ancestors of Jesus who waited for their Savior, as we do every Advent season. The following are some of the symbols used and their meanings:

Earth, Sun, and Moon – symbols of creation

Tree and Snake – symbols of disobedience of Adam and Eve

Continued on next page

LITURGY BYTES

Ark – symbol of Noah, who survived the flood through his obedience to God

Torch – symbol of Abraham's faith in God

Ram – symbol of Isaac, Abraham's son. Abraham trusted in God by offering to sacrifice his son. God spared Isaac, and a ram was provided for the offering.

Ladder – symbol of Jacob, who dreamed of a ladder rising to heaven

Coat – symbol of Joseph, sold into slavery by his brothers

Tablets – symbol of Moses, chosen by God to lead the Israelites from Egypt and receive the law

Sandals – symbol of Ruth, a woman of fidelity and piety who chose to remain with her mother-in-law, abandoning her own country and its pagan worship

Lamp – symbol of Samuel, last of the judges of the Hebrew scriptures

Stump – symbol of Jesse, shepherd of Bethlehem, David's father

Star of David – also a symbol of Jesse

Crown – symbol of David, who became king of Israel after Saul

Temple – symbol of Solomon, David's successor, and builder of a lavish temple

Fish – symbol of Jonah, who tried to escape God's calling by sailing away. After being swallowed by a fish for three days, he set out to do God's will.

Shell – symbol of John the Baptist, who preached the coming of Jesus. To show that he was the promised one, he baptized Jesus in the Jordan.

Hammer – symbol of Joseph, an honest, hardworking carpenter, destined to be the foster father of Jesus

Lily – symbol of Mary, mother of the Savior

Angel, Star and Manager – symbols of the birth of Jesus Christ

Cross – symbol of Christ and reminder that our redemption is close at hand

Jesse Tree Prayer

Lord God,
*you have given us the example of these holy men and women.
In their lives, they sought to give glory to you
and to live in your grace.
By the mystery of your love draw us ever closer to you.
Strengthen us with your grace
and raise our hearts and minds to heaven.
Amen.*

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

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 13th	1 PM
• BAPTISMS	Worship Area
• YOUTH NIGHT	6-8PM Atrium
Monday, December 14th	4 - 6 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES	Atrium
Tuesday, December 15th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Atrium
Wednesday, December 16th	1:30 PM
• ADVENT PRAYER	Chapel
Thursday, December 17th	7 PM
• RCIA	Fr. Joe Room

BACKGROUND SCREENING UPDATE

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People:

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

1. Attend **Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)**
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screen application. The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5 yr. intervals. volunteers/employees.

A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: www.Virtus.org
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct - provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application offered during the Virtus registration process.

Active Volunteers:

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened you may be at – or beyond - the **5yr. rescreening requirement**. If this is the case, you will receive an email from **Sterling Volunteers** asking you to complete the background screening application on-line. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. **Please be aware-this is not a scam nor has your e-mail been hacked.** The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically re-sign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

Edit Your Virtus Account:

To access your Virtus account: www.Virtus.org You will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or helpdesk@virtus.org. Once in your account, review your account information- particularly your e-mail address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen in the green column click "Update My Account." You will be able to make the necessary changes-please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: mmcmahon@drvc.org; amendoza-cantos@drvc.org; jwinter@drvc.org; pditomasso@drvc.org

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days.



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