

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!

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you."



... "Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, ...and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Luke 1:26-33

Come and pray with us!

Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 20, 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

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. 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

Celebrants for Upcoming Masses

Christmas Eve, December 24th

2:00 PM Fr. Michael
4:00 PM Fr. Michael
6:00 PM Fr. Frank Eisele
10:00 PM Fr. Michael

Christmas Day, December 25th

8:00 AM Fr. Frank
10:00 AM Fr. Frank
12:00 Noon Fr. Michael

December 26th/27th

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



Scripture Readings for December 27, 2020



+ *Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3*
+ *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*
+ *Luke 2:22-40*

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of December 20th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Barbara Goeller
Tue. Jack Amader
Wed. William T. Ford

Thursday, Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve Masses

All Prayer Card Intentions

Friday, Dec. 25th, Christmas Day Masses

All Prayer Card Intentions

Saturday, December 26th, 5 PM Mass

Victor Lamarque, John Bryan Sr., Giovanni LaBoy,
Mary Hall, Michael LaVecchia, John Paul Onysko

Sunday, December 27th, Holy Family Sunday

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Gene McNamara
11:30 AM Br. Leo Quinn, Michael Spota, Daniel Walker, Theresa Pellechi, Eric Schwarz, Louis Italiano



THE FINAL STRETCH

by Father Michael

I am writing this column on Monday, listening to ominous forecasts for lots of snow later in the week. Last year we were very lucky; I think we only had to have our parking lot plowed and sanded twice. That certainly helped our budget. Time will tell if Mother Nature will cooperate with or add to the challenges of what hopefully are our final months of dealing with Covid.

In the past I have invited a group of friends to come to the house for a decorating party. They would do most of the decorating, and I would keep the food and drinks flowing. It was a beneficial deal for everyone. This year I had to down size. I asked just two friends to come and decorate my tree, but the rest of my Christmas display was left to my doing. Each day I try doing another little piece. If all goes well, I will be finished by the 24th. Then again, if I am not having a parade of visitors this year there probably in no urgency to get everything done.

For the first time since my Mom died, I set up the old nativity set that goes back to my childhood. For some reason that got buried in the basement, and when I recently discovered it again I decided this is the time to bring it back and display it in all its glory. It's amazing, the memories that something like that can bring back.

Last weekend at all the Masses I explained some of the details for our celebration of Christmas. I was shocked how quickly the reservations filled for the early Masses on the Eve. I expected they would be the most popular, but I never envisioned them "selling out" within the first few hours. I pray that things go smoothly for our Christmas Masses. For most folks this has been a challenging and frazzling year. My hope is that our limited space and large crowds do not add to the craziness. It would be unfortunate if we needed to turn people away when they arrive.

I understand that for many, these days of preparation are taking on a life and energy as never before. Some folks are sorting out the details of their celebrations factoring in things like travel, number of guests, health or age issues (and we have also thrown Mass reservations into the mix). These kinds of decisions may not be easy, and some of the traditional things you did may be getting side-lined this year. All of these circumstances open the door for us to appreciate the celebration of our Savior in new ways. While there may be moments of sadness or frustration, don't allow that to interfere in coming to know the power of the Lord's grace and hope. I'm not sure how appropriate the phrase "Merry Christmas" may be this year. But it can certainly be a blessed Christmas.

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

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 |
| Joseph DiPalermo | 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.

The Bread and Wine for the week December 20th - 26th have been donated in loving memory of Anthony DeVito Jr. by his family.



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.

Special Collections

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

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! 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.



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 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 hc youthgroup15@gmail.com or call the parish office. Thank you!

DETAILS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY



- ❖ Christmas Mass Schedule:
 - Christmas Eve: 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM, 10:00PM
 - Christmas Day: 8:00AM, 10:00AM, 12:00 Noon
- ❖ Please make reservations for the Mass you wish to attend.
- ❖ Reservations for Christmas Masses will close at 8:00AM on December 23rd. You will not be able to call in a reservation after that time.
- ❖ Some Masses may likely be filled to capacity before that date.
- ❖ **Arrive Early.** Reservations will only be held until **10 minutes** prior to Mass time, then those seats will be offered to walk-ins.
- ❖ The main Worship Area will be used for those with reservations.
- ❖ **LIMITED** seating will be available in the chapel and atrium for walk-ins. Unfortunately, we may not be able to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend a Christmas Mass.
- ❖ The atrium doors will be used for those with reservations.
- ❖ The doors closest to the office will be used for walk-ins.
- ❖ Once we reach our capacity, we need to lock the doors and no more people may enter the building.
- ❖ I will be making at least one “robo-call” to all registered parishioners for whom we have a phone number to alert them to the details of Christmas.
- ❖ The “lower gravel parking lot” has fallen into disrepair. It will not be available this year.

Allow me to, once again, use a phrase I have been using for different occasions since last March, “this will be a Christmas like no other.” I realize there are a lot of “rules” to deal with. I am not trying to make attendance at Mass an obstacle course. I am trying to be as organized as possible to minimize confusion and heartache on Christmas.

I realize every parish is handling Christmas in a different way. Some parishes have larger churches or the ability to have additional Masses in a parish hall or gym. We do not have those options available to us. We have worked hard as a Pastoral Team and Staff along with many parishioner volunteers to come up with the best plan we can.

I appreciate your understanding and cooperation. We pray that this is the one and only time we need to handle Christmas Mass in this manner.

Fr. Michael

LITURGY BYTES

4th Sunday of Advent

What are the *O Antiphons*? The *O Antiphons* are an ancient, liturgical Advent prayer from Scripture. If you are not familiar with them, you just need to listen to the words of a very popular Advent hymn we sing every week during Advent – “O Come O Come Emmanuel.” The song reflects the seven antiphons and is a beautiful prayer to conclude Advent. Enjoy~*Michele Hahn*

The O Antiphons

December 17

O Wisdom of Our God Most High,
guiding creation with power and love:
teach us to walk in the paths of
knowledge.

December 18

O Lord of Ancient Israel,
giver of the Law of Moses on Sinai:
rescue us with your mighty power.

December 19

O Flower of Jesse's stem,
sign of God's love for all his people:
save us without delay!

December 20

O Key of David,
opening the gates of God's eternal kingdom:
free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Radiant Dawn,
splendor of eternal light,
sun of justice:
shine on those lost in the darkness of death!

December 22

O King of All Nations,
source of your Church's unity and faith:
save all mankind, your own creation!

December 23

O Emmanuel,
God's presence among us,
our King, our Judge:
save us, Lord our God!



MEETINGS THIS WEEK



| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Monday, December 21st • CONFESSION | 9:30-10AM & 6-7:30PM Chapel |
| Wednesday, December 23rd • ADVENT PRAYER | 1:30 PM Chapel |
| Thursday, December 24th • CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES (No Morning Mass & Parish Office closes at noon.) | 2PM, 4PM, 6PM & 10PM Worship Area |
| Friday, December 25th • CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES (The Parish Office is closed for Christmas.) | 8AM, 10AM & 12 Noon Worship Area |

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We are so proud of Kathleen Nasta and Jaclyn Young's Level 6 Religious Education class! As a group, the class decided to "adopt" some kids over the holidays, and did so through an organization called Give Kids Hope, a local charity which provides local children in need with holiday gifts. These amazing children did chores around the house to earn the money to pay for a gift to donate. Kathleen Nasta collected all of the gifts and took them to their designated location this past weekend. Thank you for being a bright light for those in need during the holidays! *See below!*





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