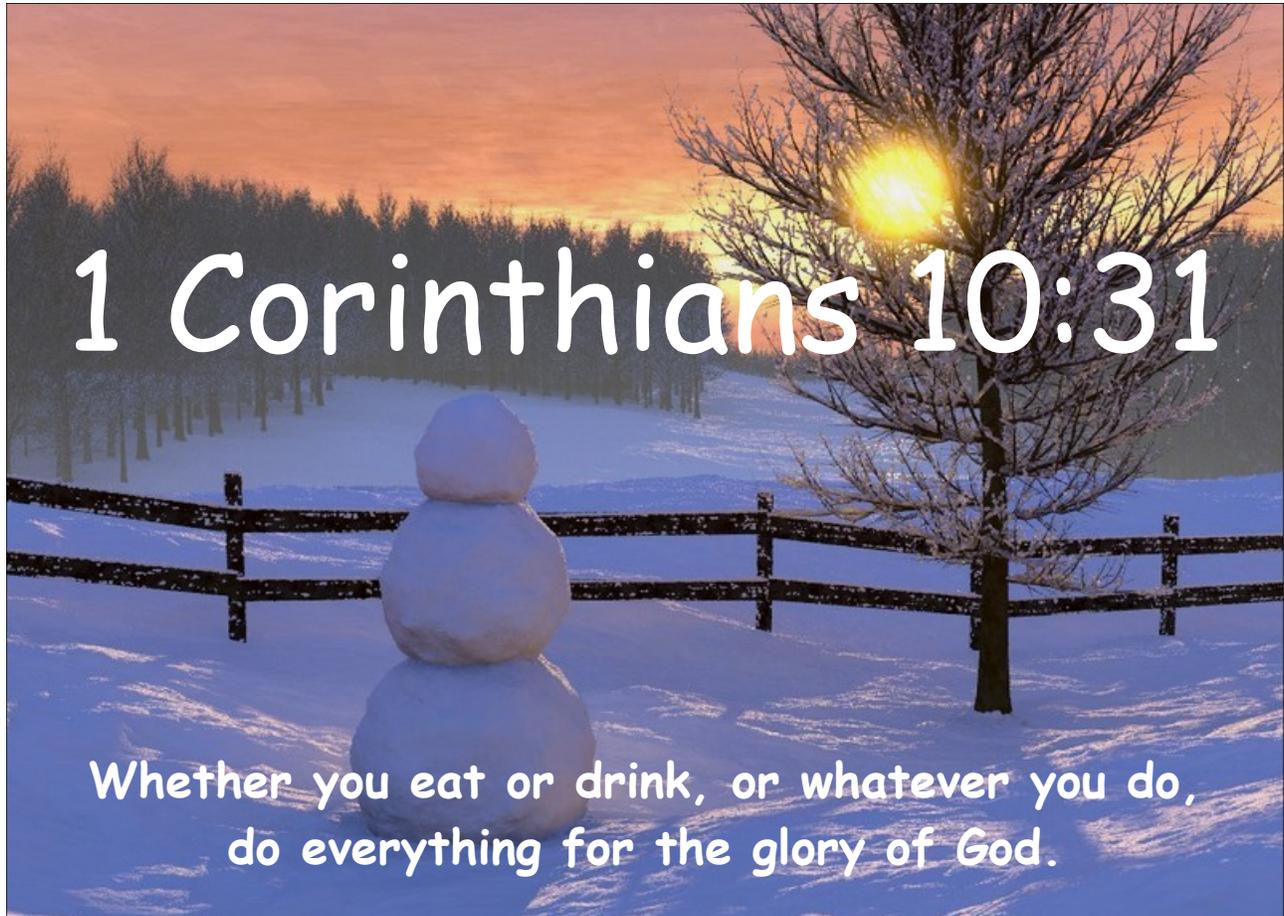


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LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!

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.*



Come and pray with us!

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 14, 2021
+ Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021

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 celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM; Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

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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
(mpannone@holycrossrc.org)

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:

Jo Barry	Kathy Barry
Claire Becker	Patricia Becker
Barbara Bombace	Ann Callari
Manuela Diaz	Ann Egan
Jim Emerson	Sienna Fricke
Jeanne Gallo	Phil Graziuse
Bob Grieco	Debbie Jablinowski
Gerald Losquadro	Charlotte Lynch
Chuck Madden	Patricia Matonti
Olivia Melia	Joseph Santamaria
Barbara Sherry	Marlene Starr
David Velkas	Doreen Velkas
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.

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of February 14th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Audrey Herley (living)
Tue. Denise Lamarque
Wed. Maureen O'Malley (living)
Thu. Christina Fini (living)

Saturday, February 20th, 5 PM Mass

Alice Maggio, Robert Schaefer, Margaret Schaefer,
Caroline Schaefer, RoseAnn Quintana

Sunday, February 21st, First Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto
9:30 AM People of the Parish
11:30 AM Guillerma Banaguas, Pedro Banaguas,
Suzanne Bergmann, Thomas Gilligan, James
Connor, Rose Grace Arzillo



Scripture Readings for February 21, 2021



+ *Genesis 9:8-15*
+ *1 Peter 3:18-22*
+ *Mark 1:12-15*

SPRINKLE THOSE ASHES!

by Father Michael

This Wednesday begins the holy season of Lent. Traditionally, we come to church with the expectation of being signed with ashes. This year that experience will be very different. We received specific guidelines from the Diocese that the signing of ashes on the forehead cannot be administered this year. Instead, there will be a sprinkling of ashes on the top of a person's head. I was surprised when I first heard that the Pope had suggested this. Apparently, it is an ancient practice in the life of the Church. And also, it has remained a practice in many countries throughout the world. But for us, it will be an unusual moment. It is another piece in these unprecedented times that have been impacted by the Covid crisis.

We have chosen a theme for these days of Lent, "I Give My Life Away." This line is inspired by a song entitled "Gracious God," which we will sing throughout the season. The reality is for almost a year now many people have been making heroic sacrifices to meet the challenges that the pandemic has presented. Clearly, health care workers and educators have done remarkable things during these times. But there are many others who also have made enormous sacrifices to hold family life together, such as parents and caretakers to an elderly or homebound family member. In different ways people have given part of their lives away out of love for others. We cannot overlook all the saintly work that has been accomplished. In many ways this Lent presents opportunities as never before. There will be many who will make a powerful connection to Jesus giving his own life on the cross and their own lived experiences. May it be a holy and prayerful season for you.

During the weeks of Lent, different parishioners will be writing brief articles for the bulletin. These articles will appear under the title of "I Give My Life Away." They have been asked to share some of the circumstances they experienced as well as some of the spiritual insights they gained during these days. I hope these articles will bring us to a deeper appreciation of what has taken place throughout our community. I pray it adds to the holiness of this season that we share.

To those of you who are married, Happy Valentine's Day. There are married couples for whom these months have deepened their love and appreciation of the other. At the time of your marriage, you never would have envisioned Covid-19 being part of the deal. But it has become part of your story, and you made it work between you. May the Lord strengthen and deepen the covenant of love that is shared by so many.

ASHES & ASH WEDNESDAY



On **Wednesday, February 17th**, countless Christians will receive ashes. This symbolizes the beginning of our **40 Day Journey through Lent**. As this significant day in the life of Christians arrives, we wonder **WHY ARE WE RECEIVING ASHES?** We must be careful not to judge others' intentions, but we are challenged to reflect on our own motives for being blessed with ashes.

- **Ashes have been considered a sign of penance.**
- **Christ is the beginning and the end of our life's journey.**
- **We are called to internal conversion and change of heart.**
- **We consciously are entering into the central mystery of our faith...
that the way to Resurrection is by way of the Cross.**

WHY RECEIVE ASHES? Ashes are meant to be an external sign of our interior desire to make these 40 days of Lent a special and sacred time. We begin Lent with ashes, reminding us of our need to die to anything that keeps us from growing in the love of God.

“Repent, and believe in the Gospel.”

**Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Ashes will be distributed at:
7 AM, 9 AM Mass, 12 Noon, 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM.**

Fast and Abstinence

All Catholics who have reached their fourteenth year are bound to abstain entirely from meat on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent. All Catholics between the ages of eighteen and fifty-nine inclusive are also bound to observe the law of fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This means limiting oneself to a single full meal and avoiding food between meals. Two other light meals, which together do not equal a full meal, may be taken during the day.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Friday, March 26, 2021: 7:30 PM (LS)



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Wednesdays in Lent: after 9:00 AM Mass

Saturdays in Lent: 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM

Monday, March 29: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM &
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Good Friday, April 2: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Holy Saturday, April 3: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



PALM SUNDAY MARCH 28, 2021

Saturday 3/27/21: 5:00 PM Mass

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM (LS)

← please note
Mass times

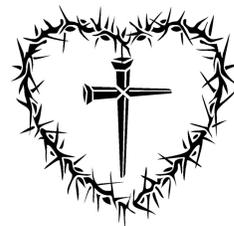
HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 1, 2021

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 8:00 PM (LS)

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 2, 2021

Children's Service - 12:00 Noon (LS)

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 3:00 PM (LS)



HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 3, 2021

Solemn Easter Vigil - 8:00 PM (LS)

NO AFTERNOON CONFESSIONS OR 5:00 PM MASS
ON HOLY SATURDAY



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 4, 2021

Masses: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM (LS)

← please note
Mass times

(LS) = Live Streamed

PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Upcoming Masses

February 20th/21st



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

*The Bread and Wine for the week February 14th - 20th have been donated in loving memory of **Richard P. Canalini** by MaryAnn Canalini & family.*



Reconciliation

Effective February 20th, first Sunday of Lent

Saturdays from 3:30-4:15 PM
Wednesdays after 9:00 AM Mass

The Parish Office is closed on Monday, February 15, for Presidents' Day. There is a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

Special Collections

This weekend, February 13th/14th, will be our collection for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund.

Next weekend we will also be collecting for **The Church in Need**. The monies collected at this time will go to the Church in Latin America where there is a particular need for help.

For many living in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers make it difficult for people to practice the faith. Your donations fund catechesis, marriage and family life programs, and seminarian formation so people can grow closer to Christ.

The people of Nicaragua, facing difficulties brought on by political strife and violence, look to the Church as a beacon of hope and as a mediator who can foster peaceful and just solutions to ongoing conflict and unrest. The seminarians of Managua's archdiocesan seminary La Purisima are a sign that God continues to call men toward priestly life, even amid hardship. Numbering more than 60 now, these men show promise that the Church will continue to flourish and minister to the future needs of Nicaraguans.

But to continue their formation, they need the support of faithful Catholics like you. Your generous support of the Collection for the Church in Latin America is an expression of solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua. It creates assurance not only for these seminarians but also for all who look to the Church in Nicaragua for hope, peace, and justice.

Thank you for your support of these important collections!

PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply...So Others May Simply Eat

Lent offers us a unique period of time to evaluate our life journey as a follower of Christ. We are encouraged to assess if this journey has led us to an improved understanding and deepening of our relationship with our Lord, with our neighbors and with our brothers and sisters of the world community.

For the last 30 years we at Holy Cross have embraced our Lenten Project **Eat Simply So Others May Simply Eat** as a way to raise our consciousness to the significant needs of our struggling friends. We willingly sacrifice larger or better meals for simpler meals during Lent. Our joint effort to **EAT MORE SIMPLY SO OTHERS MAY SIMPLY EAT** unites us in a special way with one another and also with those who are struggling on Long Island.



We encourage you not only to participate in this program, but also to discuss it at the dinner table with your children and family members. Many of us are not consciously aware of the number of people that are struggling and hungry right here in our own area. **During 2020, our Outreach pantry served an average of 140 people each month.**

The Lenten envelopes marked, **EAT SIMPLY...SO OTHERS MAY SIMPLY EAT**, will be available throughout the weekends of Lent. We suggest that you place the envelope in a prominent place in your kitchen as a reminder of how you and your family will be uniting yourselves with our struggling neighbors and with the starving of the world. *We encourage you to reflect, discuss and to decide how you will eat more basic meals during Lent.* Perhaps you have a favorite simple recipe to share. We'd be happy to put it in the bulletin for fellow parishioners to try.

Each weekend or whenever you choose during Lent, you may place your envelope in the basket on the pillar by the Altar or in the collection basket. The monies donated will be used to help those who come to Parish Outreach for assistance. We are continually grateful for the very generous response of our parishioners of Holy Cross in donating money, food and supermarket gift cards, which enables us to meet their needs.

Thank you to our parishioners for your "Super" response to the "Souper Bowl of Caring." As always, your constant and generous support is deeply appreciated by all those we serve. A special thank you to our Youth Group for all your hard work and dedication in making this event successful!

Holy Cross Parish Outreach

LITURGY BYTES

The New Normal for Ash Wednesday



This Wednesday, February 17th, begins the season of Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Because of COVID, the Pope has requested that the priests use the European method for the distribution of ashes. For many years, all over Europe, it has been the tradition to sprinkle ashes on the head. In our country, this is definitely something new! However, we will acquaint ourselves once again this year to another “new normal” experience of our faith through the sprinkling of ashes. As always, our parish will have take-home packets of ashes for those unable to come in person.

Lent encourages all of us to retreat, reflect and even keep silent. The environment of the Church moves into that penitential purple color, minus the display of flowers. We are also urged to follow the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving and, as many do, decide on what to give up for Lent. Or as I like to say, “What am I fasting from this Lent?” Some try to keep their resolutions for all 40 days, while others change weekly.

Many are asking, why give anything up after what we have been through since last March of 2020 with the pandemic? I am sure that hits home with most of us. Re-focus on this - Lent need not be depressing. Yes, we should be repentant and realize that sin led to the suffering and death of Our Lord on the cross. However, there is more to the story. During Lent this year may I suggest remembering repentance, suffering and death but also remember that NEW LIFE arises from these very things. Let us help each other grow in faith and holiness. Remember God loves us even in our sinfulness, and God never tires of cleansing our hearts and renewing our spirits!

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

Michele Hahn

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! 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:

Sunday, February 21: We will be meeting from 6 to 8PM!

Sunday, February 28: Join us for another fun Youth Night from 6 to 8PM!

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 youthgroup@holycrossrc.org or call the parish office.



MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Monday, February 15th • MORNING MASS <i>(The Parish Office is closed for Presidents' Day)</i>	9 AM Worship Area
Tuesday, February 16th • IN STITCHES	10 AM Atrium
Wednesday, February 17th • ASH WEDNESDAY MASS • PRAYER SERVICES 7AM, 12Noon, 4PM, 7PM Wor. Ar.	9 AM Worship Area
Saturday, February 20th • RITE OF ELECTION	5 PM Worship Area
Sunday, February 21st • BAPTISMS • YOUTH NIGHT	1 PM Worship Area 6-8PM Atrium

REMINDERS

Gluten Free Hosts

For parishioners who have Celiac Disease or a gluten sensitivity, Holy Cross has gluten free hosts. If you would like to receive a gluten free host during Communion, please inform the Sacristan prior to Mass.

Hearing Devices

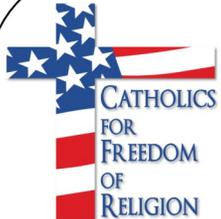
For parishioners who have difficulty hearing, Holy Cross has individual devices which can amplify sound. They are simple to use and work for those who wear hearing aids and those who do not. If you are interested in using one of these devices, please see the Sacristan or an Usher prior to Mass.

Remember "Kevin Bacon"

Don't forget to feed "Kevin Bacon" your quarters when you come to Mass on Sundays! Your donation benefits Heifer International.



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



Celebrating Presidents' Week in February

www.cffor.org

George Washington's birthday is Feb. 22. Abraham Lincoln's birthday is Feb. 12. Instead of honoring these great leaders on their actual birthdays, we combine them into one generic holiday called Presidents' Week when schools are closed and most stores hold holiday sales.

Students should learn the accomplishments of these exceptional leaders, their devout faith in God and reliance on His guidance, and their role in establishing and maintaining our "One Nation under God."

"How is it possible to overlook the significance of the leader who signed the Emancipation Proclamation that freed the slaves during the middle of the Civil War? Washington was so respected by his men at the conclusion of the Revolutionary War he could have been the king of the new nation. Instead, Washington wanted to help create a nation built on liberty," wrote former Gov. Scott Walker. ⁽¹⁾

American history - a once valued subject - is no longer a priority in public schools. This ignorance of history predicts troubling consequences as children grow up ignorant and unaware of the essential beliefs of Freedom, Freedom of Religion, and Freedom of Conscience, which founded our nation.

(washingtontimes.com, 2/20/20(1); charismanews.com, 7/4/18; nypost.com, 1/22/17)

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." - Abraham Lincoln



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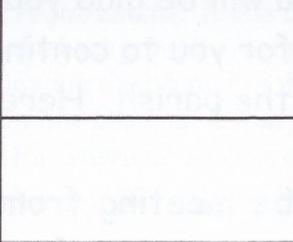
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