

# 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!**

**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.*

**If God is for us,  
who can be against us?**



**Romans 8:31**

**Come and pray with us!**

**Second Sunday of Lent - February 28, 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**

During Lent: Saturdays 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM; Wednesdays after 9:00 AM Mass

# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + parish@holycrossrc.org

## 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  
(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:

<b>Kathy Barry</b>	<b>Claire Becker</b>
<b>Patricia Becker</b>	<b>Barbara Bombace</b>
<b>Ann Callari</b>	<b>Manuela Diaz</b>
<b>Ann Egan</b>	<b>Jim Emerson</b>
<b>Sienna Fricke</b>	<b>Jeanne Gallo</b>
<b>Phil Graziose</b>	<b>Bob Grieco</b>
<b>Debbie Jablinowski</b>	<b>Gerald Losquadro</b>
<b>Charlotte Lynch</b>	<b>Nick Matonti</b>
<b>Olivia Melia</b>	<b>Joseph Santamaria</b>
<b>Barbara Sherry</b>	<b>Marlene Starr</b>
<b>David Velkas</b>	<b>Doreen Velkas</b>
<b>Judy Viskupic</b>	<b>Peter Warns</b>

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 28th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Dawn Belmonte (living)  
**Tue.** Ed Hau  
**Wed.** John LaBorne  
**Thu.** Henri-Robert Lamarque

### Saturday, March 6th, 5 PM Mass

James Lechner, Anthony Medaro, Maureen Peyton

### Sunday, March 7th, Third Sunday of Lent

**8:00 AM** Richard Michta  
**9:30 AM** People of the Parish  
**11:30 AM** Kelly Ann Doyle Mannino, Charlie Forzano, Thomas Akerberg, Kristin Burkard, Thomas Fish



## Celebrants for Upcoming Masses

### March 6th/7th



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

# EXPECTATIONS FOR LENT

*by Father Michael*

Expectations can be dangerous. We set ourselves up for how we think or hope something will be. I try to be cautious about having too many expectations about anything. We can set ourselves up for disappointment by expecting too much. While I don't know exactly what to expect this Lent, I do have expectations that the season will not pass unnoticed, but in a good way. I believe this to be true in terms of my own journey, but also as a parish community. There is something about the image of 40 days in the desert, combined with a spirit of reflection and sacrifice, that seem in harmony with all that we have been experiencing. It was in the midst of Lent last year that the Covid crisis hit home. Many feel as though last year's Lent never really ended. There is something staggering about the realization that we will soon be marking one full year of dealing with so many issues.

I think the days of Lent this year are ripe for all of us to have a profound experience of God's grace at work in our lives. For many people, their minds and hearts are filled with some combination of fear, weariness, frustration, despair, etc. None of these emotional places is a good place to be. But God can speak in profound ways through moments like these.

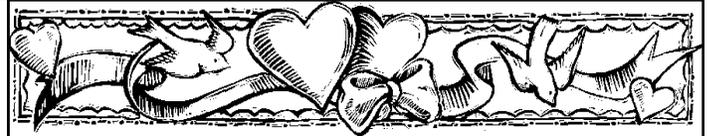
We are making an extra effort to provide additional inspiration and food for thought at our weekend liturgies. Choosing special music and identifying a theme may help to invite us more deeply into this time of holy journey. Parishioners are writing weekly bulletin columns, sharing some of their struggles and insights. I'm not suggesting you come up with a list of specific expectations for these 40 days, but keep an open heart that God may be at work in God's own way to allow this to be a holy and sacred time.

I will not be around for the 11:30 Mass today (Sunday). Bishop Barres has been inviting priests from around the Diocese to be guest homilists at the 11:00 Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre. He extended an invitation to me to preach this weekend, and I was very happy to accept. I will be equally nervous and excited. That Mass can be viewed live on CFN which is channel 29 on Optimum or channel 162 on Fios. I feel like I have been invited to play the "main ballroom." (Mom would be so proud.) 😊

On a completely different note, I have postponed a trip to Florida for the fourth time. I had tickets for the first week in March. The purpose of this trek would be to see my grandniece Everleigh for the first time. She celebrates her first birthday this month. I'm not sure when I will be able to give it a shot again. I'm pretty sure I will get to meet her before she begins the fourth grade.

# PARISH NEWS

*The Bread and Wine for the week February 28th-March 6th have been donated in loving memory of Joseph Pellechi, Jr. by the Whitehead family.*



**Banns of Marriage - First Time**  
Stefanie Bottoni & Robert Antola



## ***Scripture Readings for March 7, 2021***

+ *Exodus 20:1-17*

+ *1 Corinthians 1:22-25*

+ *John 2:13-25*

## **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 28: We will be meeting from 6 to 8PM!**
- **Sunday, March 7: 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](mailto:youthgroup@holycrossrc.org) or call the parish office.

## **Outreach Food Pantry**

Next Saturday and Sunday, **March 6th/7th**, will be our monthly Food Drive for our Parish Outreach Pantry. The following items would be most helpful:

- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Soup
- Tuna
- Mayonnaise
- Fruit Drinks
- Bottled Water
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Paper Towels



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

# REFLECTION FROM A PARISHIONER



## “I Give My Life Away” (Part 2)

*by Christine Farrugia*

Giving things away can be a challenge which might cause anxiety. Lent’s theme, “I Give My Life Away,” has an urgent meaning when we’ve spent the past year watching our lives unravel, whether migrating from an in-person forum to a virtual one, missing milestone events or being separated from loved ones. We have all “given our lives away” through a cancelled family reunion or vacation, missing relatives for holidays, or the interruption of your regular book club/workout/Bingo Night. Children gave up normal school experiences, routine grocery shopping is complicated, and many people have spent time in the confines of their homes.

Everyone has experienced loss, whether as profound as the passing of a loved one, as financially critical as a job, or as seemingly ordinary as the routine of your everyday schedule. For my own family, we entered 2020 with excitement—it was my oldest child's senior year of high school and my youngest child's last year of elementary school. We anticipated graduations, award ceremonies, senior prom, class trips and yearbook signings. Instead, there were car parades, a plethora of lawn signs and a disheartening end to years in a beloved school. Once-in-a-lifetime events were given up...memories were given away. How do we replace the sense of loss, disappointment and emptiness with hope, contentment and peace?

The challenge is to adjust our perspective on “giving our lives away.” First, remember whom we are giving our lives TO, and how the Lord gave his life TO us. I added some refrigerator magnets to my kitchen, including “Faith Doesn’t Make Things Easy, It Makes Them Possible.” Reading that saying helps keep things in perspective. Logging into videoconferencing software and not leaving your home (especially this winter!) seems easier than arriving at a meeting on time, however it’s harder. As a catechist, engaging children experiencing “Zoom fatigue” from “virtual” school is challenging. Feeling connected in a time of “social distancing” is tough. Using the term “physical distancing” to emphasize the connections in our lives, even if they are virtual, can help. A change in wording can make a difference, whether it's "physical" vs. "social" or reading inspirational sayings each morning.

Next, identify which parts of our lives might be blessings to give away. The time families have spent “in quarantine” is an opportunity to dust off a board game, have that dinner where everyone sits down while the food is still hot, pick up a book you've been wanting to read, or call a friend you haven't spoken to recently. Many of us rush from one event to the next, checking items off our "to-do" lists, forgetting how to live in the moment and appreciate the gifts we have. Discovering which aspects of our schedules are important to maintain and which ones are worth “giving away” is beneficial, as we can also give away stress, frustration and extraneous responsibilities.

It’s easy to get consumed by the chaos of everyday life; it isn’t until turmoil in the world challenges us that we assess where we are in this journey and consider which parts of our lives are better to relinquish. In "giving our lives away," remember to look for the unexpected gifts we are getting in return.

# LITURGY BYTES

## *What Are You Doing for Lent?*

Now that we are approaching the second week of Lent, have you chosen your Lenten practice for this year?



Our parish's Little Black Book, distributed a few weeks ago, is a wonderful guide and easy to follow. Most of the suggestions or recommendations require a spirit of discipline on our part. If we make time for spiritual reading or prayer, or even attend Mass more than just on Sunday, these opportunities need to be definite parts of our daily living. Sounds good when I spell it out. However, we all know that keeping up with those "good intentions" is much more difficult.

Recently, the Holy Father declared the year of St. Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus. We celebrate his feast day on March 19<sup>th</sup>. I started to read about St. Joseph and learned some interesting points about his life that I was not aware of. These "unknown points" made me think of other heroes and heroines of the Church that could also offer some assistance during this year's Lenten journey. Therefore, I propose the idea to do some extra reading about your favorite Saints, and see if their example of following our Lord radiates in your heart as to something you could embrace. I have always been struck by the Franciscan Saints: Francis and Clare and the spiritual friendship they shared. Both, coming from wealthy homes, gave up all their comforts to embrace Christ's message to "come, follow me" which they did in a very beautiful and inspiring way. I will definitely revisit their stories this Lent. I hope I have piqued your interest to search out those Catholic Hall of Famers - the Saints - this Lenten season!

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

# 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.

# PARISH OUTREACH

## LONG ISLAND CARES FOOD DRIVE 2021

- 1 in 4 adults on Long Island face food insecurity.
- 41% of food insecure people in Suffolk County are not eligible for nutrition assistance programs.
- From 2019 to 2020, there has been a 63 percent increase in the number of visits to food pantries and other food assistance organizations on Long Island, as a result of COVID-19.
- Over 79,000 children on Long Island face food insecurity.
- Approximately 259,000 people on Long Island receive emergency food each year - that is 64,900 people every week.
- The elderly make up 4 percent of Long Island's hungry. Seniors are among the hungry for many reasons, including not having enough income to afford nutritious food, suffering from depression and loneliness, or experiencing the side effects from multiple medications which can decrease the desire to eat. Many are too proud to request help.

**As we have done for the last few years during Lent, and as part of our Baptismal call to live out the Beatitudes, our parish will sponsor a food drive on behalf of Long Island Cares.**

Long Island Cares is an organization that collects and delivers food to more than 600 community-based agencies in Nassau and Suffolk. In a typical year, it distributes over 7 million pounds of food.

Please bring your non-perishable food items to Mass on the weekend of March 13/14 and place them in the large boxes in the Atrium (please, no glass).



We thank you for being a community that consistently stocks our own food pantry, reaches out to our surrounding communities and finds ways to assist our global family (through Heifer International).

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



**Steven Bellone**  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**OFFICE FOR THE AGING**  
**Holly S. Rhodes-Teague**  
DIRECTOR

February 3, 2021

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to announce that the Suffolk County Office for the Aging and the Suffolk County Senior Citizens Advisory Board are accepting nominations for the **2021 SENIOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD**. This award will recognize a senior citizen who has enhanced the lives of older residents in Suffolk County.

The nominee's contribution may be as an advocate, role model, leader, or volunteer. Their impact should be felt either throughout the County, or in one of our many local communities.

Nominations should be made on the enclosed form and must include the nominee's name, address, and phone number. Please explain why you are nominating this person for this award. Candidates must be 60 years of age or older and a resident of Suffolk County. Nominations should be mailed or faxed to:

*Senior Award*  
*Suffolk County Office for the Aging*  
*PO Box 6100*  
*Hauppauge, NY 11788-0099*  
*Fax #: (631) 853-8225*  
*Aging.office@suffolkcountyny.gov*

Employees of federal, state, county, or local municipalities engaged in providing services to senior citizens are not eligible. Persons who have already received the honor of this award are also not eligible. Nominations must be received no later than Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

Due to the pandemic, this award will be presented virtually. The person chosen as Suffolk County's Senior of the Year will also be recognized by the New York State Office for Aging as part of its Older New Yorker's Celebration in May.

For more information, please call (631) 853-8200.

Sincerely,

Holly Rhodes-Teague  
Director

H. LEE DENNISON BUILDING ♦ 100 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY ♦ P.O. BOX 6100 ♦ HAUPPAUGE, N. Y. 11788-0099  
♦ PHONE (631) 853-8200 ♦ FAX (631) 853-8225

Nomination forms may be obtained from Holy Cross Parish Outreach or  
at <https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/aging>

# 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-year 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](http://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 email 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](http://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](mailto:helpdesk@virtus.org). Once in your account, review your account information - particularly your email 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](mailto:mmcmahon@drvc.org); [amendoza-cantos@drvc.org](mailto:amendoza-cantos@drvc.org); [jwinter@drvc.org](mailto:jwinter@drvc.org); [pditomasso@drvc.org](mailto:pditomasso@drvc.org)

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

# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Sunday, February 28th</b>	<b>6 - 8 PM</b>
• <b>YOUTH NIGHT</b>	Atrium
<b>Monday, March 1st</b>	<b>4 - 6 PM</b>
• <b>SPECIAL NEEDS</b>	Atrium
<b>Tuesday, March 2nd</b>	<b>10 AM</b>
• <b>IN STITCHES</b>	Atrium
• <b>LEV. 2 RECONCILIATION</b>	<b>7PM</b> Worship Area
<b>Wednesday, March 3rd</b>	<b>7 PM</b>
• <b>PRE-CANA MEETING</b>	Atrium
<b>Saturday, March 6th</b>	<b>11 AM &amp; 1 PM</b>
• <b>LEV. 2 RECONCILIATION</b>	Worship Area
<b>Sunday, March 7th</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
• <b>USHER MEETING</b>	Worship Area
• <b>BAPTISMS</b>	<b>1PM</b> Worship Area
• <b>YOUTH NIGHT</b>	<b>6-8PM</b> Atrium

## Be a Bulletin Advertiser!

**Did you know** that the Holy Cross bulletin is printed for us each week free of charge? **So please frequent the fine establishments that advertise in our bulletin!**

If your business could use some exposure, consider advertising in the bulletin. Each weekend, numerous people attend Mass at Holy Cross, most of whom live and shop in Nesconset and the surrounding areas. Also, our bulletin is on our website **pothc.org** and reaches thousands of area families with information about your business.



If you are interested in advertising, or would like more information, please call The Church Bulletin Inc. at **631-249-4994**.

# 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. Thank you!



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