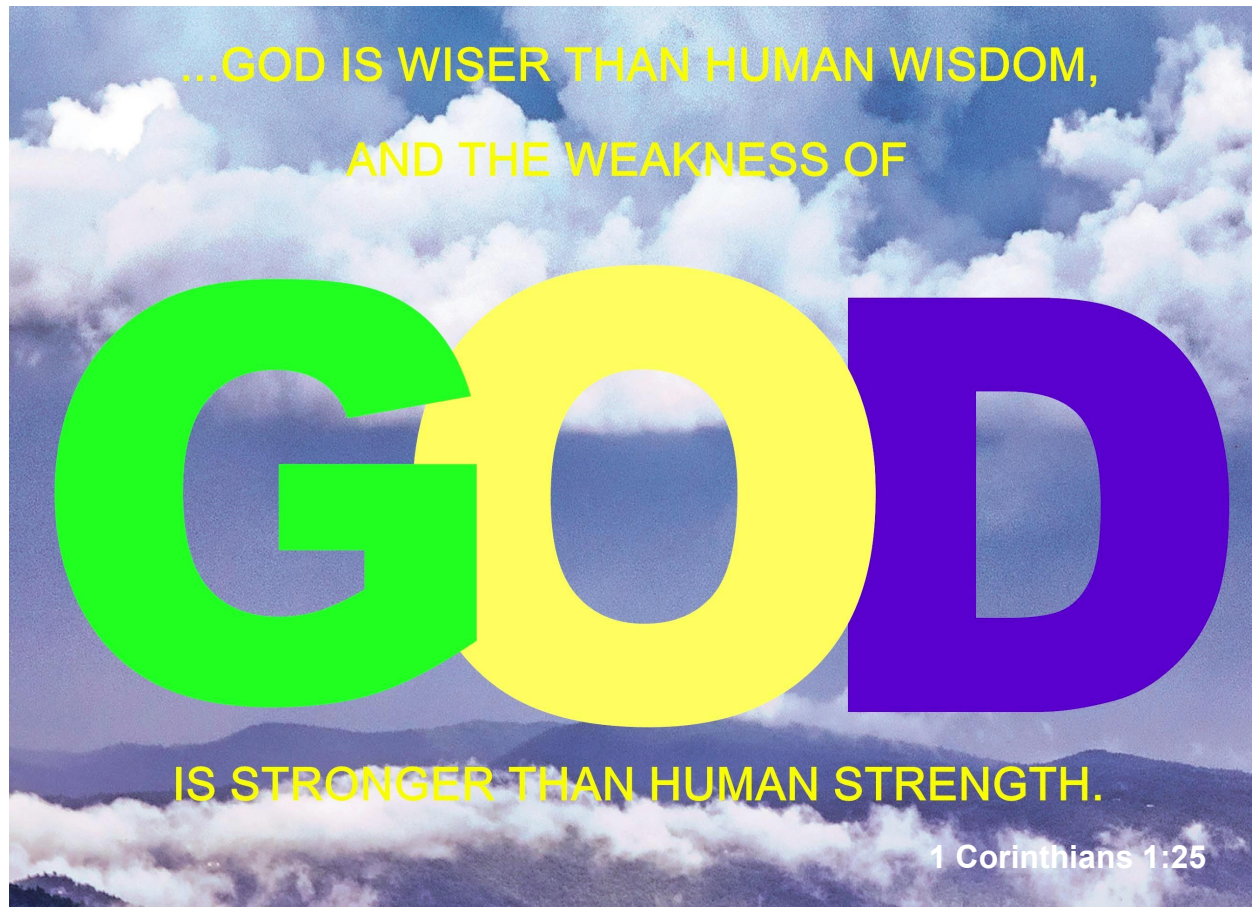


The Parish of the Holy Cross

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.*



Come and pray with us!

Third Sunday of Lent - March 7, 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

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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:

Kathy Barry	Claire Becker
Patricia Becker	Barbara Bombace
Ann Callari	Manuela Diaz
Ann Egan	Jim Emerson
Sienna Fricke	Jeanne Gallo
Phil Graziose	Bob Grieco
Debbie Jablinowski	Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch	Nick 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 March 7th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Maron Brady
Tue. Victor Lamarque
Wed. Linda Castro
Thu. Denise Lamarque

Saturday, March 13th, 5 PM Mass

Adelaye Chersevani, Frank Krist, Hardy Daughtry,
Vincent Gallo, John Vorst

Sunday, March 14th, Fourth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Matteo Santulin, Sheila Giglia,
Lucia Vitale Traino
11:30 AM Karen Walsh



Celebrants for Upcoming Masses

March 13th/14th



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

THE FORTY DAYS CONTINUE

by Father Michael

Please keep our little First Communion candidates in your prayers. This week they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for their spring Communion Masses. It was a busy week of hearing confessions. It is a privilege to share the sacrament with our children. Some may say that a seven-year-old child really can't grapple with the concept of sin. But, in many instances, you can see a sincerity in their admitting sorrow for the little things they have done wrong. Traditionally, the Church has used the phrase "age of reason" to describe this point in their development. There is wisdom to those words.

We have been using the large screens in the Worship Area to display the lyrics to songs and the text to the scripture readings since July. That computer program needs to be run from a laptop which is located in the music ministry area. After seven months of bumping into each other, we have found a new location for our "control room." It will now be located in the chapel, just inside the entrance door. That location should not interfere with anyone else, but it will provide good visibility of the TV screens for the operator. Most of the wiring has been installed, and we should be able to set up shop within the next couple of weeks.

As you may recall, before the pandemic hit, Cash Calendar was a regular part of life at Holy Cross. Tickets were sold just about every weekend after Mass. I don't think we have the weekly attendance or the support to resume the program as it used to be. However, we are introducing a variation of it. We are calling it the Spring Cash Fling. The prizes are smaller and there will not be a daily winner, but there will be an opportunity to win cash prizes. Tickets will not be sold in person, but rather through tear out tickets in the bulletin that can be returned in the collection basket. Please see the flyer in this week's bulletin for more detailed information. In addition to the modest financial gain to the parish, this is another small step to life returning to its normal routine as we begin to head out of the Covid crisis.

Thank you to all those who offered their support and kind words regarding my preaching in the Cathedral in Rockville Centre last week. (One of our Altar Servers wished me good luck at "Rockefeller Center.") I was a nervous wreck. I was excited to be there, but I found it an intimidating setting. But, in the end, I was pleased with my efforts. I am very happy to make Holy Cross my home, and I don't need to take my act on the road.

Continue to try to make these days of Lent a time of prayer and grace for you. It is a holy season, and there are opportunities to grow in our relationship with the Lord. Have a blessed week.



Scripture Readings for March 14, 2021

+ *2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23*

+ *Ephesians 2:4-10*

+ *John 3:14-21*

PARISH NEWS



Pray for Our Military

SPC(E-4) David Basler
Cpl Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
SA Anthony J. DeNicola
FC2 Lane Dyar
AS Brandon Ferrara
SSG Daniel Frost
MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA
WO Christopher Kaminsky
Sgt Michael J. Knipper, USMC
SSGT Ryan Mauldin
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
Lt Ryan Montvydas
IT1 Jason Mulderig
Cpl Michael Palagonia, USMC

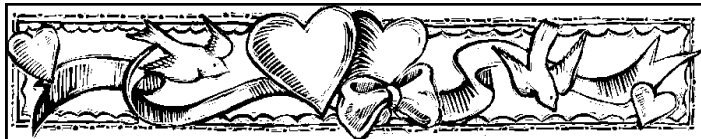
We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service. We will continue to pray for them through 2021. Please let us know at any time during 2021 if their service is finished, their title has changed, or you would like continued prayers through 2022. May God bless all who serve our nation. Pray for Peace!

Catholic Sisters Week Mar. 8-14 *Celebrating Traditions, Changing the World*

Catholic Sisters Week shines a light on the spirituality, mission, and community building of women religious.

In celebration of National Catholic Sisters Week, you are invited to a virtual open house on Sunday, March 14th, from 2 PM—3 PM via Zoom, by the sisters of Holy Spirit Convent: Sister Rosaleen, CSJ; Sister Maura, CSJ; Sister Lynn, CSJ; and Sister Preenika, CSJ.

Please RSVP to caton@csjbrentwood.org in order to receive the Zoom link.



Banns of Marriage - Second Time

Stefanie Bottoni & Robert Antola



*Holy Cross welcomes
this child Baptized
in February*

Paisley Grace Nothdurft

Religious Education

Religious Education would like to invite our parish family to join us in congratulating our Level 2 students who received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation this past week. We offer our continued prayers of support as they continue to prepare for First Holy Communion.



We pray for the following parishioners whose funerals were celebrated at Holy Cross in February:

*William Babington
Raymond Dean Jr.
Katherine Salvato*

May they rest in peace,
and may their loved ones be consoled.

REFLECTION FROM A PARISHIONER

"I Give My Life Away" (Week 3)

by Dawn Thelian

The theme, "I give my life away," resounds close to my heart. I am a wife and a mother of three boys, ages 6, 7 and 11. I have been teaching high school math for 19 years, and I am a catechist here at Holy Cross for the past 4 years. When COVID-19 first sent us all into quarantine, it was a very difficult time. As a mother, daughter and a teacher, I needed to be strong and brave. It was essential to ensure my kids, both literally and figuratively, were not afraid. My 97-year-old grandmother was living with my parents at the time. My father is considered high risk also, so I was very concerned for their safety. Inside I was nervous and unsure what was happening and what the future would bring. I give my life away, meaning that I need to trust in my relationship with God and know that He will give me the strength and guidance I need to be there for those who need me.

Many of my students were high school seniors, and they were losing important events in their lives, such as prom, sporting championships, yearbook signing and graduation. Here I was, responsible for continuing to teach them the curriculum for their AP Calculus exam, while emotionally they were struggling. I went through a period of hopelessness. As many people were feeling like there was never-ending time and boredom, I was struggling to get it all done. Homeschooling the boys, pre-K, 1st grade and 4th grade, while simultaneously learning new software, apps, and virtual platforms to continue to teach my students was a monumental task. My department and I also felt it was important to keep the social and emotional connection to our students, so we took the time to make numerous videos to keep the kids laughing and smiling.

Once the school year ended, I was hoping that much of the craziness would die down. It did for a short time, but then my husband, Greg, had a bad accident in which he broke his hip and his wrist. It was heartbreaking dropping him off at the emergency room curb. I had a small taste of how families felt not being able to be there for their loved ones while they were sick. Again, I gave my trust to God. After multiple surgeries and a stay at a rehabilitation facility, he was finally back home with a positive prognosis.

Not being in control of what is happening around me, scares me. My logical mind couldn't fully understand all of the seemingly arbitrary rules that were being pushed upon us. Through all of the struggles I was able to find peace in paying attention to my blessings, and God reminded me to accept the things I cannot change. No one in my family contracted COVID-19 and although Greg's injury was bad, he will recover. Giving my life to God, I realized that I am well suited in my role as wife, mother, teacher, and caretaker. However, I learned that I need to add myself to the list of those I care for. I look forward to when our lives can be closer to the normal we were used to, but I will continue to give my life away. I know that God will be there to guide me throughout my journey, and he has shown me that I possess the strength and courage I need to be there for the ones I love.

I can do
ALL THINGS
through
Christ
who strengthens me.
PHILIPPIANS 4:13

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

News from RCIA

Please take a few minutes to get to know
Katie Bacigalupo and Bailey Fiedorowicz,
and continue to pray for them as they journey toward the Easter sacraments.



My name is Katie and I have been married to my husband, Michael, for 8 years. We have a 7-year-old daughter and a 5-year-old son. I am an elementary school teacher, but I took the last few years off to raise my family. As much as I love my job, I feel very grateful to have had that quality time with my children.

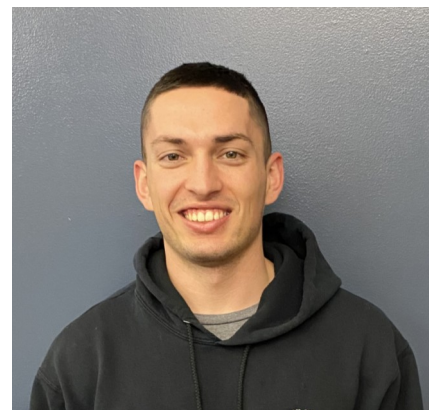
My husband received all of his sacraments at Holy Cross and both of my children were baptized here. My daughter started religious education classes this year, and I thought it would be the perfect time to receive my sacraments and share in this very special experience with her.

Being a part of the RCIA at this point in my life has given me a great appreciation for my faith. I have always felt welcomed at Holy Cross and have had a profound connection to the masses. I truly believe I have found my place in worship.



My name is Bailey and I am engaged to my fiancée, Erin. I recently started a new job as a fitness coach for Orangetheory Fitness. I had been looking for a way to get reconnected to my faith for a while, but I never really knew where to start. I had grown up Catholic, but due to a complicated family situation, I was baptized late and never received the remainder of my sacraments.

Erin and I were originally supposed to get married out of state in October 2020, but due to Covid we had to postpone. After reconsidering, we decided it would ultimately be best to stay local with the wedding.



As we began to plan our wedding, we quickly knew the Parish of the Holy Cross was the church where we wanted to be married. This church has some personal connections for me: I was baptized here, and my dad was married here. I decided that it was important for me to finish my sacraments and become a full-on Catholic before Erin and I were married. Thankfully, Holy Cross has an RCIA, so everything worked out in the end. I am so thankful that Holy Cross has given me an opportunity to re-connect with the Catholic faith, and I am excited for what the future holds!

YOUTH MINISTRY

PLANT SALE PRE-ORDER FORM

Customer Name (please print): _____
Phone Number: _____

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 4/4/21, ORDERS RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE CANNOT BE FILLED. ALL PLANTS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED, THERE WILL BE NO PLANTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT THE CHURCH. ALL PRE-ORDERS CAN BE PICKED UP AFTER ALL THE MASSES THE WEEKEND OF 5/1 & 5/2. ORDERS CAN BE PREPAID, PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

8" Hanging Baskets: \$15.00

Balkin Ivy Geranium: Pink _____ White _____
Fuchsia: _____
Lantana: Yellow _____ Lavender _____ Two Tone _____
New Guinea Impatiens: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Lavender _____ Salmon _____
Portulaca: Pink _____ Yellow _____ Mix _____
Wave Petunia: Pink _____ White _____ Dk Blue _____ Lavendar _____ Magenta (purple wave) _____
Wander Jew: (indoor/outdoor-spring/fall): _____
Strawberry Delizz (delicious fruit): _____

Perennials 8" Pot: \$10.00

Astilbe (deer resistant/shade/part sun/attracts butterflies): Peach Blossom _____ Montgomery Red _____
Black Eye Susan (Rubeckia) (full sun/part shade/attracts butterflies): _____
Butterfly Bush (Buddleia) (full sun/rabbit resistant/attracts butterflies & humming birds): Purple _____
Cone Flower (Echinacea) (sun/partial shade/deer resistant/attracts butterflies): Pow-wow Wild Berry _____
Lavandula (full sun/deer & rabbit resistant/attracts butterflies): _____
Delphinium (New Millen Dwarf Stars): _____
Stella D'Oro Day Lily (flowers summer-fall/rabbit resistant/attracts butterflies & humming birds): _____
Hosta: _____
Nepeta: Purrsian Blue _____
Autumn Joy Sedum: _____



Flats-32 plants per flat: \$15.00

Begonia: Bronze Leaf: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Mix _____
Green Leaf: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Mix _____
Cosmo (Sonata Mix): _____
Dahlia (mix): _____
Flowering Vinca: Lilac _____ Mix _____ White _____ Red _____ Pink _____
Dwarf Marigold: Orange _____ Yellow _____ Mix _____
Portulaca (mix): _____
Salvia (red): _____
Petunias: Midnight Blue _____ Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Plum _____ Mix _____
Impatiens: Coral _____ Red _____ Mix _____ White _____ Purple _____ Rose _____
*****We do not guarantee impatiens affected by Downy Mildew*****

Succulents (assorted): \$8.00 _____

Culinary Herb Garden 12" Oval Pot (Basil, Parsley, Oregano, Cilantro, Sage): \$13.00 _____
Sauce in a 6 Pack (2 Basil, 2 Parsley, 2 Roma Tomato): \$9.00 _____

4 1/2" Pots: \$5.00

Coleus Mix: _____
Geranium: Red _____ Pink _____ White _____ Violet _____ Salmon _____
Helichrysum Licorice: _____
Million Bell Petunia: Dark Blue (Purple) _____ Rose _____ Yellow _____
New Guinea Impatiens: Red _____ White _____ Pink _____ Lavender _____ Salmon _____ Deep Purple _____
Roller Coaster New Guinea (double flower): Hot Pink _____ Red Racer _____ Tangy Taffy _____ White Lightening _____
Zinnia Profusion: Orange _____ Cherry _____ Yellow _____
Gerber Daisy: _____

PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply Ideas

Here are some ideas to consider using for your family's participation in our Eat Simply program.

- If you give up sweets for Lent, donate the money saved so that we can purchase cookies and snacks for a family.
- Discuss what a "simple meal" means in your household. Is it soup and bread? Is it a peanut butter and jelly sandwich? **Our simple meals can be a gourmet feast for some families struggling to make ends meet.**
- Rather than having your Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts coffee, make your morning coffee at home. The money you donate could buy a can of coffee for a family.
- If you are ordering in for dinner, pick up food instead of using Door Dash/Uber Eats. (Many restaurants have curbside pick-up now.) Make a simple homemade dessert for after dinner and donate what it would have cost had you ordered something in.



Envelopes are available on the bulletin tables. You may return your envelope in the basket on the pillar by the altar or in the collection basket. Thank you so much for prayerfully participating in our Eat Simply program so that others may simply eat!

Long Island Cares Food Drive 2021



Our Parish will again hold a food drive during Lent, to benefit Long Island Cares. During these difficult times we are all aware of the struggles many of our neighbors endure in meeting the food and financial needs of their households. Long Island Cares provides a valuable service in providing food to community agencies and food pantries across Long Island.

Next weekend, March 13/14, boxes will be available in the atrium for you to place your donated food.

Long Island Cares most needed items: NO GLASS JARS PLEASE

- Pancake/Waffle Mixes
- Hot and Cold Cereal
- Juice (plastic containers only please)
- Shelf Stable Milk (ex: Parmalat)
- Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam (plastic jars)
- Canned Ham, Chicken, Tuna
- Pasta, Rice, Egg Noodles
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Vegetables, Fruits, Soups
- Cookies, Crackers, Granola Bars
- Shampoo, Conditioner
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Diapers and Wipes
- Feminine Hygiene Products

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

LITURGY BYTES

Lenten Ideas



As we enter a new month, it is time to check in and see how our Lenten disciplines are progressing. I know each year I always need to re-ignite my best of intentions. Recently, I found some assistance from something I happened upon called “A Digital Lent Guide.” I hope some of these ideas are beneficial to you.

Daily Friend Prayer – Review your contacts, and choose one “friend” each day to pray for. It is up to you if you wish to contact them or if you wish to leave a message for them on social media.

Prayerful Posts – Whether on social media or via an email, share a prayer or Scripture quote that has special meaning to you. If a contact questions your post, suggest they do the same to their contacts as a special Lenten practice.

Mobile Prayer – Get up from the chair or couch, take a walk with your phone, and pray with a Scripture passage you read.

Praying Online – Here is a great tip when praying online. Ask God to be with you, act through you, and give you patience, courage, hope, inspiration and love while you are engaged in social media that particular day.

Fasting from Cell Phone “Itis” – When in the company of others, fast from using your phone or checking it. In this way, you can give your undivided attention to the people around you.

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

WHAT'S NEW?

Spring Cash Fling

For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine. This fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish. In addition, many parishioners enjoyed participating in it. Unfortunately, it was one of the many parts of parish life that was lost to Covid. At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing. And so, we introduce the "Spring Cash Fling." This is a similar idea, however it will be offered initially on a quarterly basis.

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through March, April, and May.
- Drawing will be held in May.

Because we anticipate smaller participation, there will be a different pay scale:

- * 1 Prize @ \$250
- * 2 Prizes @ \$100
- * 10 Prizes @ \$50
- * 15 Prizes @ \$25



- This formula was based upon selling 250 tickets @ \$10 each. If more than 250 tickets are sold, the number of prizes will be increased. *(In the event the response is strong, we will resume a monthly drawing as soon as possible.)*
- Tickets will not be sold after Mass. Please use the tear-off tickets below. You may return your entries by placing them in an envelope and depositing it in the basket on weekends, or returning them to the Parish Office.

Thank you for your support!

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Saturday, March 6th	11 AM & 1 PM
• LEV. 2 FIRST RECONCILIATION	Chapel, Wor.Ar.
Sunday, March 7th	10:30 AM
• USHER MEETING	Worship Area
• BAPTISMS	1PM Worship Area
• YOUTH NIGHT	6-8PM Atrium
Monday, March 8th	4 - 6 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS	Atrium/Chapel
Tuesday, March 9th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Atrium
• LEV. 4 MASS WALK-THRU 4:30 & 5:30PM	Worship Area
Wednesday, March 10th	3 PM
• CONSOLATION MINISTRY MTG.	Fr. Joe Room
• LEV. 4 MASS WALK-THRU 4:30 & 5:30PM	Worship Area
Thursday, March 11th	7 PM
• RCIA	Fr. Joe Room

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Catholic Relief Services Collection

Next week our parish will take up the **Catholic Relief Services** Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to vulnerable people here and abroad.

Please consider a donation to this collection and **help Jesus in disguise!**



Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief



100% of all the money raised is restricted to support the objectives, programs, and mission that serves more than 600,000 people each year. These programs include services to people in need, affordable housing for senior citizens, people with disabilities and our veterans, respect life initiatives, and formation of our priests, deacons, lay leaders, and young people. Please consider supporting the 2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Every gift counts and makes a difference in the lives of others! Thank you!!

Make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish Parish of the Holy Cross—176

Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____

Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____



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