



Parish of the Holy Cross



Let All Who Enter 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.

The farmer waits patiently for the precious fruit of the earth...

You too must be patient.

-James 5:7-8



Third Sunday of Advent - December 14, 2025



Come and Pray with Us!

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 livestreamed on Facebook.

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM;

Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PASTORAL TEAM

Reverend Michael F. Holzmah..... Ext. 115
Pastor

Deacon Joseph Maffeo..... Ext. 124
Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Judith Pickel..... Ext. 116
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Michele Hall..... Ext. 120
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Jennifer Miller..... Ext. 112
Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Mrs. Kelley Mowat..... Ext. 113
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

PHONE: (631) 265-2200

FAX: (631) 265-2229

EMAIL: parish@holycrossrc.org

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MONDAY - THURSDAY
9 AM - 4 PM
(closed 12:15-1 PM)**

**Parish Office
FRIDAY HOURS
9 AM - 12 NOON**

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth..... Ext. 122
Parish Secretary

Mrs. Mary Pannone..... Ext. 111
Religious Ed. Secretary

Ms. Karina D'Angelo..... Ext. 110
Business Manager

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Webmaster

Mr. Roberto Maza
Custodian

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro
Bulletin Editor
email: susanr@holycrossrc.org

**NEW OUTREACH HOURS:
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Evening Hours by Appointment Only**

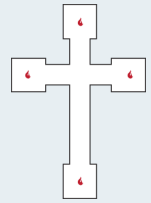


Visit our website at **www.holycrossrc.org**
for more information on how we can serve you.



DECIDE FOR YOURSELF

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



In today's Gospel, John the Baptist poses a question, "Are you He who is to come, or do we look for another?" This question comes to Jesus through some of the disciples of John the Baptist. Jesus could have answered the question with a simple "yes." Instead, he says to them to go tell John everything you see. "Tell him of the miracles you have seen of the blind being given the gift of sight and the lame able to walk again. Let him know it is to the poor the message of good news is preached." Once John the Baptist has this information, then he can decide for himself whether Jesus is the one or not. Faith is not a matter of repeating what others say, rather it is affirmed within the heart of each person.

As the passage continues, Jesus speaks about John. It is clearly John's intention not to be a superstar who attracts attention to himself. He says he will not be the one to wear fancy clothes. He says he will not be "a reed blowing in the wind," which means a person who momentarily gains the popularity of many. He came to proclaim a message of hope and compassion. This new life is not going to be rooted in any of the laws, traditions or structures of the time. There is something new to his message. In this regard, Jesus and John the Baptist share the same perspective. It is both engaging as well as challenging. Jesus told John the Baptist he had to figure it out for himself. Jesus said the presence of God will always be found in relation to the poor, the marginalized, and the broken. The same message is offered to us. We need to discern the truth of God in our own hearts. We need to seek his presence in unexpected places.

There is an interesting element at work in the Gospel. It may seem strange that John the Baptist who proclaimed the coming of Jesus is now questioning Jesus' identity. The key in understanding this question lies in the fact that at this moment John is in prison. Amid his brokenness and fears, his faith is questioned. For all of us, that too is likely when our faith will be tested. It's easy to proclaim to be a person of faith when all is going well. It is when we are immersed in the challenges and heartache of life that the vitality of our faith may become tenuous. We need to journey with the Lord in those dark and trying days of our life which inevitably will come along.

Yes, we need to seek the presence of God at work in those times of lowliness in our lives. But beyond that, we need to understand that the message of Jesus was always in relation to those for whom the entirety of their lives is immersed in hardship. Jesus consistently ministers to the poor, the broken and those on the fringe of society. It was to them that new life was offered. It was in their lives that real transformation took place. There is no way that we can believe we are faithful disciples of Jesus while being dismissive of those in our world who are the poor, broken and on the fringe of life.

As we prepare to celebrate the one who brings us life, may we always be mindful it is not only for our personal edification that God sent his Son into the world. We are called to be a people who mirror the compassion of Christ and bring that gift to those who hunger and struggle in this life.



DECEMBER 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



DECEMBER 20

5:00 PM
FR. MICHAEL

DECEMBER 21

8:00 AM
FR. MICHAEL

9:30 AM
FR. FRANK

11:30 AM
FR. FRANK



**SCRIPTURE
READINGS
for DECEMBER 21**

+ Isaiah 7:10-14
+ Romans 1:1-7
+ Matthew 1:18-24

ON THE CALENDAR

Saturday, December 13th RITE OF WELCOME
5:00PM Mass, Worship Area

Saturday, December 13th KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SALES
5:00PM Mass, Atrium

Saturday, December 13th YCC HOSPITALITY
After 5:00PM Mass, Atrium

Sunday, December 14th KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS SALES
All Masses, Atrium

Sunday, December 14th BAPTISM GATHERING
9:30AM Mass, Worship Area, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, December 14th BAPTISMS
1:00PM, Worship Area

Monday, December 15th SPECIAL NEEDS
4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Tuesday, December 16th IN STITCHES
10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

PARISH OFFICE WILL CLOSE AT 3PM ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

Thursday, December 18th SCRIPTURE STUDY
10:00AM, Atrium

Sunday, December 21st CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room

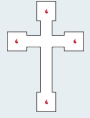


Rejoice

The third Sunday of Advent is
traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*.
Gaudete is the Latin word meaning
"rejoice."

Visit our website at www.holycrossrc.org
to find out more about the different ministries we have to offer,
how you can be involved, and when they meet.

WE PRAY...CELEBRATE...REMEMBER



Upcoming Mass Intentions

Week of Sunday, December 14

9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Robert Constantino

Tues. Stan Grom II (living)

Wed. Charles Ferraro

Thur. Antoinette Pico (living)

Saturday, December 20, 5PM Mass

Paul DiGregorio, Anne DiGregorio,
Paul Anthony DiGregorio, Joseph Ficarola,
William Boucher, Robert Tavis

Sunday, December 21, Masses

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00AM David Davila

9:30AM Michael Corcoran, Gloria Posimato,
Dolores Tranchino, Marge Cortegiano,
Joseph Primerano

11:30AM People of the Parish

*Please pray for those in our parish
who are sick, their families and caregivers*

Bob Alderdice	Caroline Lazar
Alejandro Astegiano	Carol Leahy
Jo Barry	Victor Lewandowski
Kathy Barry	Mary Lopez
Alison Bilski	Gerald Losquadro
Cole Brennan	Jeanne Marie Malley
Laurie Bronzino	Janet Mangano
Veronica Buscemi	Steve Matonti
Judy Carlson	Olivia Melia
Mary Champagne	Geraldine Muscarnera
Peter Chirafisi	Loretto Narducci
William Ciccarelli	Andrea Nocito
Stephen Crawford	Darin Pitkanen
Kimberly Crawford-Arbocus	Patricia Pitkanen
Grayson Danielski	Colleen Prinz
Anthony DeGennaro	Carina Ranieri
Manuela Diaz	Bernardine Reichbach
Peter DiMauro	Rob Remhild
Ann Egan	Christine Ridulfo
Lisa Eger	Lynn Rodger
Vincent Esposito	Sean Romeo
Ralph Farino	Elaine Ruane
Yolanda Fattarusso	Jacqueline Santamaria
Sienna Fricke	Casey Schultz
Linda Giordano	Kathy Schwinn
James Greene	John Serri
Linda Heinrichs	Celeste Sichenze
Ralph Hughes	Todd Skala
Ryan Huscher	Sue Southard
Debbie Jablinowski	Bill Tanner
Kristen Kennedy	Calvin Tatone
	Grace Van Epps
	Peter Warns



*We thank
the men and women
who serve in our military
for their service.*

**If you would like to have the name of your
loved one listed in our prayers for the sick,
please call 631-265-2200 x122.**



*May my prayer be set before
you like incense; may the
lifting up of my hands be like
the evening sacrifice.*

Psalm 141:2





PARISH OUTREACH



A Message from our Outreach Office...

We are grateful that you think of us when you have a household item you would like to donate, but please do not leave items in the Atrium without calling the Outreach office first. We have limited space to store items. When you call, we would be happy to give referrals where you can drop off your item if we don't need it. Thank you.

Homebound Ministers - We invite you to join this vital ministry!

Can you see yourself ministering to those who are homebound? Can you see yourself sharing a half an hour a week visiting, praying, and delivering the Eucharist to those who are, at times, forgotten?

Our Homebound Ministry is growing, and we need your help! A small-time commitment and a loving heart are all that are needed. We invite you to be part of this vital parish ministry that supports and ministers to those who are unable to join us at Sunday Mass. We are asking for your help in serving those we are called to serve. The impact you will make on a person's life is far beyond the time given. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Outreach Office at (631) 265-2200 ext. 113 for more information and any questions you may have. Thank you!



**Are you or someone you know
in the parish, homebound or
anticipating an operation or
treatment of cancer?**

*We 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.*

We need your assistance and invite you to help us see those in need and make the connection to our loved parishioners. Please call (631) 265-2200 ext. 113 or stop by Parish Outreach to let us know of these parishioners who are special to us. Thank you!



Have extra coins to spare? Remember "Kevin Bacon"

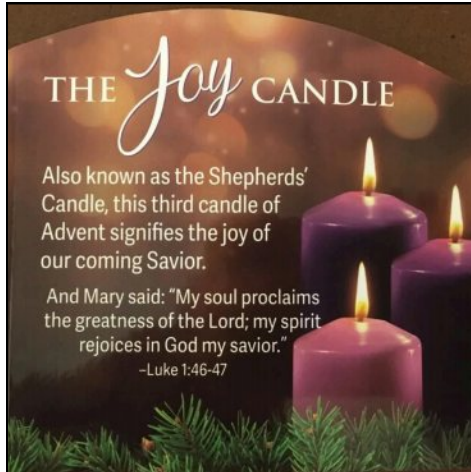
*Don't forget to feed "Kevin Bacon" your quarters
when you come to Mass on Sundays!
Your donation benefits Heifer International.*



For the month of December, Outreach will not be requesting any food items.

*This is due to your generosity and support of the Outreach Pantry the last few weeks.
Thank you!*

PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



Children's Liturgy of the Word



Every 1st
and 3rd
Sunday of the month
at the 11:30AM Mass

JOIN US
on **Sunday, December 21st.**
Children in Kindergarten
through 3rd grade



**Knights of
Columbus®**

Weekend of
December
13 & 14

**Blessed Sacrament Council #11416
Parish of the Holy Cross**

will have a table in the atrium during
weekend Masses welcoming parishioners,
selling Christmas magnets

**Merry Christmas and many thanks
for everyone's support this year!**

We welcome prospective members to join The Knights
Visit: www.kofc.org for more info

YOUTH COMMUNITY CARES



If you are a middle school or high school student
looking for community service hours,
**sign up for the Remind app
to get information about future events!**

For additional information, join our Remind group:
[rmd.at/ycchc](https://www.remind.com/join/rmd.at/ycchc)
or please email Angela at:
youthcc@holycrossrc.org
to get a Sign-Up Genius Link



Practice of Hope

(Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2026")

How can you be an ambassador of hope to "those whose hearts are frightened"? How can you work for "justice for the oppressed"? How can you provide "food to the hungry"?

Pray to the Holy Spirit to help you discern concrete ways that you can bring hope to others in your family and community. Just as Jesus gave hope to the imprisoned John the Baptist, you too can give hope with healing words. Give comfort to someone suffering from a serious illness. Be patient with family members, pray for guidance, allow the Lord to open your deaf ears, and work for peaceful solutions.

Examine your conscience this week. Have you spoken out against inhumane conditions in nursing homes, prisons, or refugee camps? Have you remained silent when others demean immigrants or the homeless? How has your prayer moved you to action in support of justice?



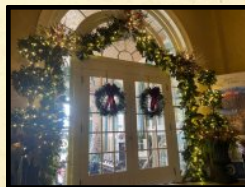
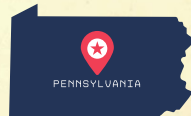
HOLY CROSS TRAVEL



Sight & Sound
Theatre



Lunch at the
Red Caboose



The
Bethlehem
Hotel

CLUB ADVENTURES



Old Bethlehem



Christmas Market
at the site of
Bethlehem Steel plant



Lancaster
Sights



Those who joined the Holy Cross Travel Club for its most recent trip to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, enjoyed their 3-day adventure, including the production of "Noah" at the Sight & Sound Theatre and other local attractions.



PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY

Christmas 2025 Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 20th @ 5:00PM

Sunday, December 21st @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th @ 4:00PM, 6:00PM & 10:00PM

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 27th @ 5:00PM

Sunday, December 28th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Solemnity of Mary

Wednesday, December 31st @ 5:00PM

Thursday, January 1st @ 10:00AM

Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM

Wednesday, December 17, After 9:00AM Mass

Monday, December 22nd: After the 9:00AM Mass,
2:00PM – 4:00PM and 6:00PM – 7:30PM

There will be no confession on Wednesday, the 24th



Due to bulletin printing deadlines, names of loved ones from the Christmas flower envelopes will begin to appear in the Christmas bulletin.

If you do not see the name of your loved one in the Christmas bulletin, names will be in bulletins in the following weeks after Christmas. Thank you for your understanding.



Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love



Next weekend at the offertory we will be collecting for our Renovations and Major Repairs fund.

Thank you for your continued support!



Missalettes

If you didn't get a chance to order a 2026 Missalette, you can still purchase one for \$12 in the Parish Office.



Winter Windfall



For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine, and this fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish.

At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing, so we will continue as we have done for the past few years with our quarterly drawing.

- **\$10 per ticket**
- **Tickets are available for purchase December, January and February.**
- **Drawing will be held FEB. 26TH**

This is the pay scale which will be offered:

- **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.

Please cut out and use the 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!



Winter Windfall

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____



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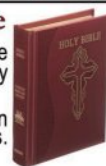
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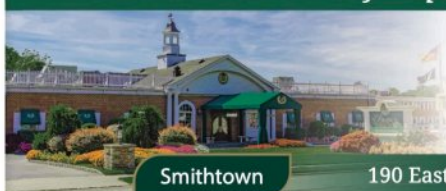
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