

Parish of the Holy Cross

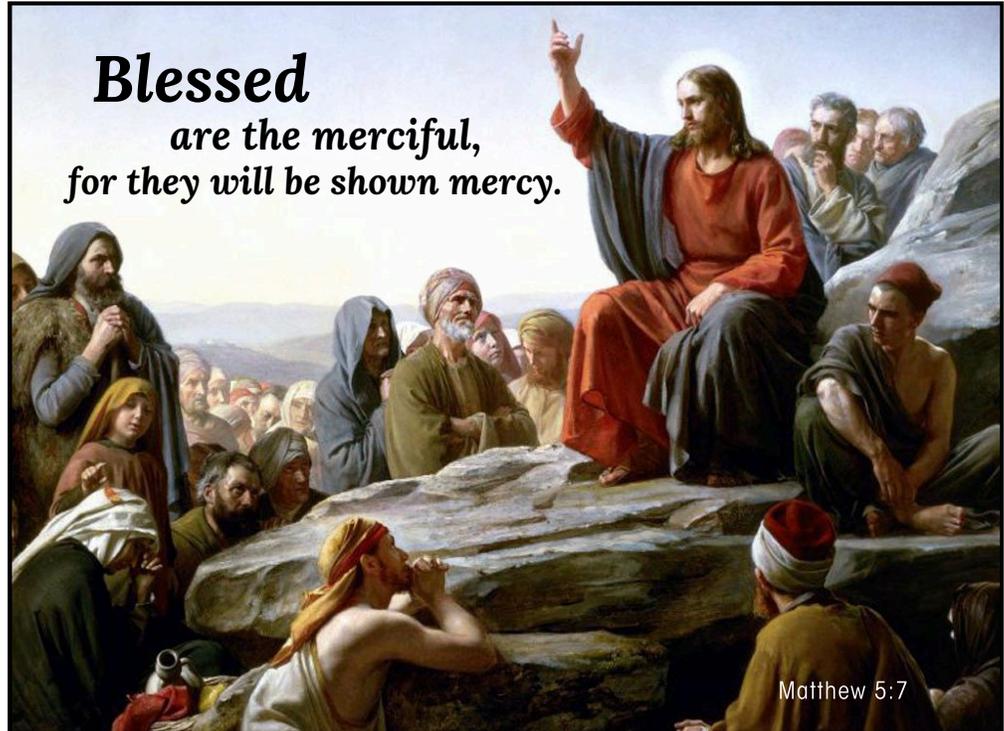


Let All Who Enter Be Welcomed as Christ!

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.

Blessed
*are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.*



Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time - February 1, 2026



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

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200
www.holycrossrc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PASTORAL TEAM

- Reverend Michael F. Holzmann..... 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

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

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

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



But You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God,
Slow to anger and abundant in mercy and truth.

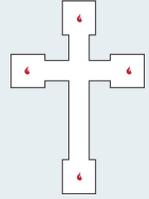
[Psalm 86:15](#)

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



BLESSED ARE...

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



Think of a time in your journey when your perspective on life changed. Remember a time when life felt like the universe was moving in the opposite direction. More likely than not, that kind of insight is connected to either an experience of deep love or an experience of great suffering. When someone close to you dies, it's as if your world is spinning off its axis. The end of a meaningful relationship can make you feel numb. If you are closely connected to the birth of a newborn child, you look at life differently. There is a remarkable spirit of wonder and hope at work. There are moments when significant life experiences allow us to look beyond the normal things that ordinarily distract or annoy us. Little things become secondary and we look at life in a much broader context. We come to understand what is truly important, and life seems to have deeper meaning.

It is helpful to keep that attitude in mind when we hear this weekend's Gospel. We are still reading passages from the beginning of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus has just been through some major events. At his baptism, Jesus heard a voice affirming that he is God's beloved Son. After his baptism, Jesus was led into the desert for forty days. The desert was a time of intense prayer. We hear that he faced Satan and was tempted. But we also hear how he was ministered to by angels. After that, Jesus hears that John the Baptist has been imprisoned and realizes he may be put to death. This was someone who was very dear to Jesus. It has been a vortex of profound moments for Jesus. At this moment his life was anything but routine and normal.

Coming out of this whirlwind he begins his public ministry. His first teaching was a profound one. We refer to it as the Beatitudes. In this he makes statements that defy logic and sensibility. Among other things, he says it is those who are poor in spirit, those who mourn, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness who are blessed. Some translations even use the word happy. Most people would not measure their level of happiness or feeling blessed based on those criteria. Jesus is not misguided or setting us up for a path of misery. Rather, he speaks a message that takes profound wisdom to understand. It's not beyond our grasp, but it takes time for us to grow, and trust, and allow the truth of these words to unfold.

When we are truly united with God, our perspective on life is radically different. The way in which we find joy and contentment is not found in many of the realms that conventional wisdom would identify as valuable. We are called to trust in Jesus' teaching and pray the fullness of his words may unfold in our hearts. When we are locked into a mindset where we look at life in terms of winners or losers, good guys and bad guys, friends or foes, we will never understand the truth of these words. We are a people who proclaim to seek the truth of God. We cannot ignore what Jesus says. We need to strive to grow, trust, and understand that his path is a unique stance. But it is his way alone that will bring us any sense of lasting peace or happiness. May we be open to seek the depth of a life-giving relationship rooted in God.

On a different note, I will be away on retreat next weekend. I am grateful to Fr. Mickey Bancroft and Fr. Joe Schlafer who are covering the Masses. Also, as I write this column, I'm hearing a forecast for a potential nor'easter for the weekend. Please, no more Sunday storms!



2026		FEBRUARY					
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
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	

ON THE CALENDAR

PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



FEBRUARY 7

5:00 PM
FR. MICKEY BANCROFT

FEBRUARY 8

8:00 AM
FR. MICKEY

9:30 AM
FR. MICKEY

11:30 AM
FR. JOE SCHLAFER



SCRIPTURE READINGS for FEBRUARY 8

+ Isaiah 58:7-10
+ 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
+ Matthew 5:13-16

Saturday, January 31st YCC HOSPITALITY
After 5:00PM Mass, Atrium

Sunday, February 1st ANOINTING OF THE SICK
After 9:30AM Mass, Worship Area

Sunday, February 1st CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, February 1st YCC HOSPITALITY
After 11:30AM Mass, Atrium

Monday, February 2nd SPECIAL NEEDS
4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Monday, February 2nd LEVEL 5 BIBLE LESSON
7:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Tuesday, February 3rd IN STITCHES
10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

Wednesday, February 4th DRESS A GIRL
9:30AM - 12:00PM, Atrium, Fr. Joe Room

Thursday, February 5th SCRIPTURE STUDY
10:00AM, Atrium

Thursday, February 5th LEVEL 8 RETREAT
6:00PM - 9:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Sunday, February 8th BOY SCOUT SUNDAY
9:30AM Mass, Worship Area, Atrium

Sunday, February 8th BAPTISM GATHERING
9:30AM Mass, Worship Area, Fr. Joe Room



Practice of Faith

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

In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus is clear about his expectations for discipleship. Pope Francis calls the Beatitudes the "Christian's identity card" (Morning Meditation, 2014). People recognize us as true followers of Christ by how well we respond to the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount. Do you grieve with those who mourn? Do you try to be a peacemaker? Are you a person of mercy? Do you speak up when someone speaks ill of your beliefs? Practice the Beatitudes this week:

Put a printed copy of today's Gospel in a place you will see daily. At the end of each day, think of your interactions with others. Place a check next to the Beatitude you practiced.

Forgive someone you have been holding a grudge against and pray for them.

Be the first to resolve a conflict and do so with patience and kindness.

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, February 1

9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Maria Conte

Tues. Helen Dalamango

Wed. Bob DeFilippis

Thur. Cecilia Klujnsa

Saturday, February 7, 5PM Mass

Marie Howley, Concetta Brady

Sunday, February 8, Masses

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM Steve Matonti

9:30AM Barbara Schroeder, Gloria Posimato,
Joe Gatto, Dolores Razbornik,
Jorge Gutierrez Castillo

11:30AM People of the Parish

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

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

*Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.
James 5:14-15*



The next **Anointing of the Sick**
will be held on February 1st
after the 9:30AM Mass



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

*We continue to pray
through 2026 for ...*

SSGT David Basler
Cpl Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
FC2 Lane Dyar
AS Brandon Ferrara
MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA
WO Christopher Kaminsky
Sgt Michael J. Knipper, USMC
Dr./Cmdr. Eric J. Koch, USNA
SSGT Ryan Mauldin
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
Lt Ryan Montvydas

*Please let us know if their service is finished
or their title has changed.
May God bless all who serve our nation.
Pray for peace!*

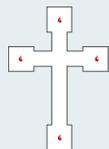
**If you would like to have the name of your
loved one listed in our prayers for the sick,
please call 631-265-2200 x122.**



*We remember and pray for the following
Holy Cross parishioners who passed away recently:*

**Kenneth Baribault
Frank DelVecchio
Richard Glasheen**

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



PRAYER...WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



A very simple way to begin to understand the meaning of the word prayer is to simply say that prayer is talking with God. However, just as important to know is prayer is also listening to God. Being silent is the side that many find most difficult. We open our mouths and talk to God, but we should also then sit quiet and listen. The second part is more difficult!

Most of us probably learned prayers when we were young most likely from parents, relatives or in school. As we got older, we might have questions regarding prayer. For instance, does God really listen to us and answer our prayers? Of course He does, but sometimes the answers are not what we want, or the timing is not immediate. Some ask, what do I talk to God about? How about everything that matters in our lives.

Let us begin by saying, share with God our hopes, desires, fears, joys, sorrows, likes and dislikes. Do not hold anything back. After all, God already knows it all. Talk to God like you would talk to a best friend. In prayer we get to know God and what God wants for us. We come to know what God wants us to do so that we can be happy in this life and be led to the life that is to come. Prayer also helps us to truly know who we are and what we are all about. Prayer can help us totally surrender ourselves to God and help us to free ourselves from the illusions and distractions of this world. We should consider prayer as the most important activity of our lives because prayer gives us the insight and ability to do everything else that matters in our lives. I am sure you are thinking "easier said than done" since most of us do not approach prayer in this manner. When feeling down or feeling God is not answering us, that is when we need to keep PRAYING and not give up. These are the times when we really need to feel God's presence. Remember, you do not need the special words of memorized prayers, your own words addressed to our God work too! Part 2 of our discussion will continue next week.

Have a blessed, healthy, and prayerful week ahead!

Please note: the date of the next Holy Hour has been changed for February.



HOLY HOUR
Saturday, February 14th
3:45pm - 4:45pm
in the Worship Area

Please come and spend some time with the Lord in personal prayer as you pray before the Blessed Sacrament during the Parish Holy Hour.



**Parish of the Holy Cross
OUTREACH
and YCC
working together**



SNOW PATROL!

**During these cold winter months,
we recognize that snow removal can be a challenge for some members of our community.**

**We are excited to share that we are working to launch a new ministry
designed to help those in need with snow removal.**

This initiative will be supported by our wonderful youth volunteers from YCC (Youth Community Cares).

Our plan is to connect you with youth volunteers who live nearby, allowing them to walk to your home to assist when possible. Please note that this ministry will take some time to fully get off the ground and will depend on volunteer availability and your location.

Once we have your information, your neighborhood will be posted on the YCC sign up and matched with a youth volunteer nearby. Finding a match may take some time depending on where you live and who volunteered. We will do our best to make as many matches as possible, but we may not be able to match everyone.

***If you are interested in receiving assistance,
please fill out the slip below and return it to the Outreach Office by February 2nd.***

Thank you for being part of a caring and supportive community.

SNOW PATROL!

Please print clearly and return slip to Outreach by February 2nd

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Cross Street _____



PARISH OUTREACH



Outreach is currently in need of the following items for the food pantry.

The collection will be the weekend of February 7th & 8th

**Snacks (cookies, individual snack bags) - Instant Potatoes
Brown/White Rice - Fruit in a Can - Pasta Sauce in a jar - Mayo
Shelf Stable Milk - Small Laundry Detergent - Sides (Knorr Sides / Rice-a-Roni)**

Thank you for checking expiration dates before donating. Thank you for your continued support!

We will meet on Wednesday, February 4th , 9:30AM - 12PM in the Atrium



Every girl should have the chance to receive, own and wear a new dress. Our Dress a Girl ministry helps make this possible. We gather monthly to lovingly create dress kits at our "Cut-Ups" session. These dress kits are then available to take home, where skilled sewists create beautiful dresses. We hope that each dress symbolizes how special and loved each girl is. Our prayers are with them all.

We are looking for sewists and donations of fabric to continue our ministry.

Do you like to sew? If creating a beautiful dress in the comfort of your own home, sharing your talent and making a difference to a young girl sounds like something you may be interested in, then the "Dress a Girl" Ministry is for you!

If your talent lies in sewing, contact the Outreach office to make arrangements to pick up your "take home dress kit." Instructions and support are available as you create a dress from one of our dress kits.

If you would like to join us, we meet monthly to create the dress kits. We are so grateful for all those who played a part in our "Dress a Girl" Ministry. This ministry could not exist without the many volunteers who have cut out a dress, sewn a dress or donated fabric. We need fabric to keep creating these beautiful dresses and offering hope. **We are in need of 2-3 yards of a cotton blend fabric.** We invite you to be part of this ministry by donating fabric and helping to support the good work that we are doing. All donations can be brought to the Outreach office.

If you are interested, we ask that you please RSVP to the Outreach Office at 631-265-2200 so we can prepare for all those who will attend. If you have any questions, please contact Kelley in Outreach. Thank you!!!



**Mobile
Outreach Bus**



The Community Outreach team is pleased to offer free health screenings and flu vaccinations in your community by a Catholic Health registered nurse.

**Free
Health Screenings
and
Flu Vaccinations**

Parish of the Holy Cross R.C. Church
95 Nichols Rd., Nesconset, NY 11767

**Tuesday, February 10, 2026
10 am - 2 pm**

No insurance or ID required. No need to fast.

**Services for adults
(18 and older):**

- Brief cardiac history
- Blood pressure screening
- BMI screening
- Simple blood test for cholesterol and glucose
- Health education
- Referrals as needed
- Resources for those without insurance
- Free flu vaccination (senior dose available)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



LEVEL 8 PRAYER SERVICE

On Thursday, January 22nd, the Level 8 students participated in a prayer service that included their peers, Nick, Jerry, Julianna and Gianna who were presenters, and Sal Finocchiaro was our moderator. Thank you to our music director, Brian, who provided the music that evening.



LEVEL 8

RETREAT

in the
Atrium & Worship Area

Thursday, February 5th from 6PM - 9PM

OR

Thursday, February 26th from 6PM - 9PM

Please check with your catechist for which date you were assigned.
Attendance is a requirement for Confirmation

LEVEL 5

Bibles are being distributed at all the Masses this weekend
January 31 & February 1st

Level 5 Bible Lesson will be held on Monday, February 2nd, at 7PM in the Worship Area

PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



The BraveHearts of
St. Francis Hospital are
excited to introduce



YoungHearts is a new program within the BraveHearts organization that provides community, support and friendship to pediatric cardiology patients and their families.



Want to get involved or become a member?

To learn more, please call the BraveHearts office at (516) 562-6785 or email the YoungHearts chair at Christina.dunleavy@aol.com

chsl.org/st-francis-hospital



This weekend we will be collecting for our **Regional School Support**.



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

Thank you for your continued support!



Holy Cross Welcomes these Children Baptized in January

— ♥ —
Anna Maria Buscemi
Theodore John Vincent Castro
Austin Charles Flynn
Callie Lydia Kolln
Natalie Antoinette Norton
Gabriella Mae Panarello

*God Bless these Children and their Families.
Our Holy Cross family celebrates with you!*



Boy Scout Sunday

February 8, 2026 9:30 Mass

All Scouts are Welcome

Scouts should arrive 15 minutes early
Class "A" uniforms, scouts & leaders
Bring your Troop/Pack Flag & stand

*Please let us know how many scouts & leaders will be attending by **Feb. 5th** so we can have enough reserved seating for your group.*

Please contact

Andy Bodor and Kim Loh Bodor

Akjlb23@optonline.net or 516-996-2295

Girl Scout Sunday-T/B/D

If you are newly engaged and you are ready to plan your wedding here at Holy Cross, please contact Jane, in our parish office, to receive information to help you prepare for your special day.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
they shall be called children of God.

[Matthew 5:9](#)



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 _____

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Town _____

Phone _____



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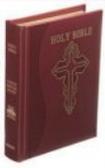
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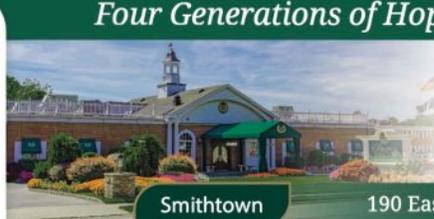


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