

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.



Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time - February 8, 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



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- Deacon Joseph Maffeo..... Ext. 124
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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**



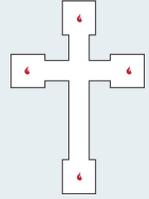
The Lord is merciful and compassionate,
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.
The Lord is good to everyone.
He showers compassion on all his creation.
Psalm 145:8-9

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



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



Last week's gospel was the Beatitudes. This week Jesus continues his teaching but uses familiar images of light and salt. Each of these must be used for their intended purpose. In a similar way, each of us is capable of living out some aspect of gospel love. We must do what we are capable of doing. He says, "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." Sometimes people may feel as though their faith is a personal thing. In some ways, it is. But Jesus is clearly saying that our relationship with God should impact our lives in such a way that we give visible witness to the fact that we have a loving relationship with God. God's glory and goodness is meant to be seen through what we say and do. This dynamic of consistency between one's beliefs and actions is sometimes raised with politicians or others in the public spotlight. But the call to authentic living is not limited to any one group, it is a question we must all ask ourselves.

There are two concluding prayers that can be used to end Mass. They communicate the essence of Jesus' message: "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord," and "Go in peace, glorifying God by your life." We have been fed by the Lord in the Eucharist. Now we are empowered to bring the good news of God's love to the world. May we never lose sight of this command to give living witness to our God by the loving lives we lead.

As you read this article, I am in the midst of my annual retreat. God bless the Jesuits; they have retreat houses in really neat places. I am on a silent men's retreat outside of New Orleans. I believe the retreat house is a renovated plantation on the Mississippi River that was donated to them decades ago. I flew in one day early with plans of exploring Baton Rouge, which is a place I have never been to before. The hotel I am staying in used to be the main local department store in the downtown area. The store closed and it was transformed into a hotel. I think my room is in the former housewares department. I enjoy traveling. But I do have a feeling of absence when I am not in the parish, particularly on a weekend. You will very much be in my prayers during these days. Please say one for me. Who knows what holy and crazy ideas with which I may return?

My sense is that this enduring winter is starting to whittle away at people's spirit. Energy costs have increased significantly across the board. Many are on the hopeless quest to search for ice-melt. On most days it is too cold to spend any significant time outside. As a result, most of the day is spent indoors with cases of cabin-fever increasing. Both young and old alike are anxiously anticipating a break from the winter frenzy. It did not help that the groundhog assured us of another six weeks of winter. Hang in there, we will make it.

Next weekend (unless we are snowed out) we will have our formal introduction to our theme of "Called to Compassion." The original plan was to do it two weeks ago, but it was postponed when most folks were not able to get here on Sunday because of snow. We will be learning a new song that I plan to be utilized in the coming months.



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

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

Monday, February 9th **SPECIAL NEEDS**
 4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

Tuesday, February 10th **IN STITCHES**
 10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

Tuesday, February 10th **CATHOLIC HEALTH SERVICES**
 10:00AM - 2:00PM, Parking Lot

Wednesday, February 11th **SENIORS**
 11:30AM - 2:30PM, Atrium

Thursday, February 12th **WOMEN'S BIBLE CIRCLE**
 10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

Thursday, February 12th **OCIA**
 7:00PM, Fr. Joe Room

Saturday, February 14th **HOLY HOUR**
 3:45PM - 4:45PM, Worship Area

Sunday, February 15th **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**
 11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room

PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



FEBRUARY 14

5:00 PM
 FR. MICHAEL

FEBRUARY 15

8:00 AM
 FR. MICHAEL

9:30 AM
 FR. MICHAEL

11:30 AM
 FR. MICHAEL



SCRIPTURE READINGS for FEBRUARY 15

- + Sirach 15:15-20
- + 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
- + Matthew 5:17-37



Bring back old palm leaves next week in preparation for Ash Wednesday.



Practice of Faith

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

The readings remind us of Jesus' care for the poor and his demand for his followers to do the same. Charity is a light shining in the darkness for those in need. Our love for the least in the kingdom glorifies our Heavenly Father. Pope St. John Paul II taught, "In loving the poor the Christian imitates the attitude of the Lord, who during his earthly life devoted himself with special compassion to all those in spiritual and material need" (*Ecclesia in America*, 58). Imitate Christ by loving those suffering from physical and spiritual poverty:

Volunteer in a nursing home or senior center to give comfort to those experiencing loneliness.

Participate in a food drive to support a food pantry.

Be a light in the darkness by raising awareness about poverty in your community. Write letters to government officials to gain support for initiatives to help the poor.

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 8

9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Mike Murphy, Margaret Murphy (both living)

Tues. Carol Wilson (living)

Wed. Charlotte Wangenstein

Thur. Judy Keena

Saturday, February 14, 5PM Mass

James E. Guiliano, Dennis Langevin,
Frances Giambanco, Eric Schwarz,
Theresa Schwarz, Ruth Schwarz

Sunday, February 15, Masses

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM People of the Parish

9:30AM Marge Cortegiano

11:30AM Joseph M. Babi, Carol D'Angelo,
Anthony LaVeglia Sr., Richard Glasheen

*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
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



**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.**

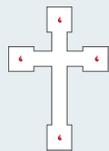


*We thank
the men and women
who serve in our military
for their service.*

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

Psalm 141:2





PRAYER...PART 2



LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



To continue with our discussion on prayer, I thought a discussion about the various types of prayer might be helpful and informative. Although there are numerous ways to pray in a variety of settings, I have chosen a few of the more popular ones for this article. Let us start with the most familiar types of prayer:

INTERCESSORY PRAYER - This is the prayer that we offer for others when we ask for a special request for a family member or friend. Keep in mind we can use this type when asking for something for ourselves too. This is also the nature of prayer used when we ask a particular saint or the Blessed Mother to pray for us.

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING - It is important to offer thanks to God for all the great things God has done for us.

COMMUNAL AND LITURGICAL PRAYER - These are the prayers offered when the community gathers together like for Mass, a Rosary group, Support group, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction, Liturgy of the Hours (Morning and Evening Prayer), Novena prayers to name just a few.

PRAYERS OF SORROW AND RECONCILIATION - This type of prayer we use for the celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It is also evident in various parts of the Mass like the Penitential Rite, the Our Father and the doxology said right before Communion..."O Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but just say the word and I shall be healed." These are examples of sorrow that we all say.

Finally, there is **MEDITATION and CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER** - which happens when we can set aside time just to be quiet without distractions so we can listen to what God wants to say to us. Some attribute this type of prayer to folks who live in monasteries and are separated from the world, but it is not just for saints or members of religious orders to pray like this. We can all pray in this manner. All we need to do is make time to listen more and let God do the talking! No one can tell you what is the best way to pray. This decision is something only you and God can make!

Have a blessed, peaceful, 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 OUTREACH



Parish Ministry Spotlight



Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound



Pictured above are some of the members who are part of the "Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound" Ministry.

Throughout the year, we will be spotlighting ministries within the parish and those who have been "Called to Compassion" to serve as their heart leads them.

Our Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound gathered on January 29 for an evening of prayer and reflection on their ministry. These volunteers visit a homebound or hospitalized parishioner weekly, sharing time in conversation, prayer, and offering the Eucharist. Thank you to these wonderful, generous people who help us make sure that no one in our parish is forgotten.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, or if you know of a parishioner who could benefit from this service, please contact Kelley at ext. 113 or at outreach@holycrossrc.org.



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!



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):

- Blood pressure screening
- BMI screening
- Health education
- Referrals as needed
- Resources for those without insurance
- Free flu vaccination (senior dose available)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

LEVEL 5 BIBLE LESSON

On Monday, February 2nd, the Level 5 students participated in a large group bible lesson, using the bibles that were blessed and distributed over the past weekend. After the lesson, they decorated their own bookmarks.



"Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it." - Proverbs 22:6

LEVEL 8

RETREAT in the Atrium & Worship Area

The next date for the Level 8 Retreat is
Thursday, February 26th, from 6PM - 9PM

Attendance is a requirement for Confirmation

If you have any questions, please call the Religious Ed. Office
at (631) 265-2200 Ext. 112



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 contact

Andy Bodor and Kim Loh Bodor

Akjl23@optonline.net or 516-996-2295

Children's Liturgy of the Word



Join Us for
Children's Liturgy of the Word
on Sundays,
at the 11:30 AM Mass,
every 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH

During the Mass, children from Kindergarten through 3rd Grade will be invited to move to a separate space and hear God's Word in age-appropriate language. Older children are welcome to assist as helpers. Don't miss this special opportunity for the entire family to experience Mass in a more meaningful way.

HOLY CROSS SENIORS



Our next meeting is on
Wednesday, FEBRUARY 11th

Join us in the Atrium
from 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM



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

Thank you for your continued support!

Women's Bible Circle



Please join us when we meet on
Thursday, February 12th,
at 10:00AM in the Fr. Joe Room

Low-Gluten Hosts

For parishioners who have Celiac Disease
or a gluten sensitivity,
Holy Cross has low-gluten hosts.

If you would like to receive
a low-gluten host during Communion,
please inform the Sacristan
prior to Mass.



Bring back your old palm

In preparation for Ash Wednesday,
we will be burning last year's palm
on Sunday, February 15th,
after the 11:30 Mass.

Please bring back your palm
next weekend, Feb. 14th & 15th, and
place it in the specially marked basket
in the atrium.

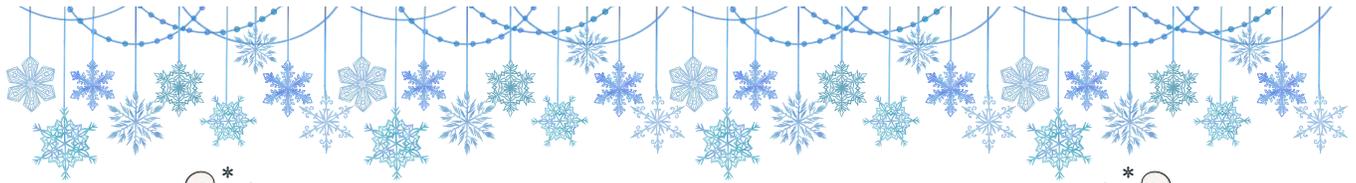
"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



WINTER Festival



Families had a great time on Friday, January 30th at our Winter Festival. Thank you to Paula Reese for organizing this event, and thank you to all those who volunteered or made donations which helped make this a fun-filled event for the Holy Cross community!



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 _____
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 Town _____
 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

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 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____

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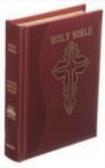
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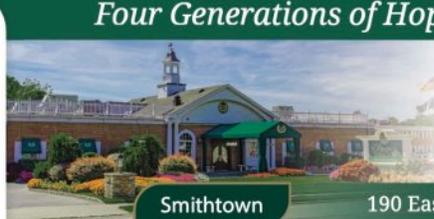
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