



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.

“Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone,
except to
love one another;
for the one who loves
another has fulfilled
the law.”

Romans 13:8

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 6, 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 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM;

Monday: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

Wednesday immediately 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. 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

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



"If two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my Heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them."

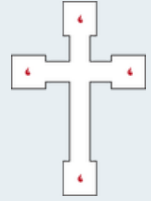
-Matthew 18:19-20

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



'TWAS A BLUE SKY DAY

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



Tuesdays used to be my day off. Smith Point Beach was frequently where I began the day immersed in peace and quiet. I particularly enjoyed going early in the morning before there was any kind of crowd. It was even more beautiful when the weather was sunny and warm. I found the serenity to be both relaxing and energizing. I remember getting back in the car one day and turning on the radio. The first bits of news I heard seemed to make no sense. I had to be mistaken. What was happening? It was September 11, 2001. I was hearing for the first time what began to unfold only about 45 minutes earlier. I rushed back to St. Sylvester's in Medford and began to deal with the turmoil and chaos of that day. Everyone in their thirties and beyond remembers where they were that day as they heard the news of that tragic day that changed life.

It feels that the memories of that day are intensified as we approach the twenty-fifth anniversary. There are so many stories of heartache and sadness that touched all of our lives. There are many people who continue to bear the physical and emotional wounds inflicted on them through these terrorist attacks. But woven into this day of horror are countless stories of heroism and sacrifice. There are times when humanity faces the unrelenting power of the cross. It is frightening and makes us feel helpless. But there are also times when extreme moments empower the human heart to rise in greatness. As people of faith, we don't give into despair or hopelessness. We turn to the cross of Jesus to be reminded of something greater - the power of Christ Jesus to transform all things. We trust in life and hope coming out of the darkest of days.

This Friday we will each remember what happened in our own way. We will hold in our hearts those we know who were affected and even those who we never met. We offer our suffering and loss to our loving God confident that in His love we find strength. We continue to pray for the ability to overcome all hatred and violence. We pray for that peace that comes from God alone. May God bless us all.

Every three years the cycle of liturgical readings brings about the Gospel teaching on forgiveness. Often this reading falls in proximity to September 11. That is the case this year. Next week we hear that we are called to forgive not just seven times, but seventy-seven times. Is this a coincidence or the Spirit working in a baffling way? I'm not suggesting we simply say just let it go and move on, countless lives were forever changed that day. But I do say that there are times when we are reminded no matter how great the brokenness or heartache we face in this life, there is something stronger. If we do not believe that God can embrace us and allow us to believe in newness of life, then it is time for us to close up and move along. NOTHING in this life is stronger than God's grace. Sometimes it takes a very long time for us to know this in our heart, but we cannot give up. Human history is filled with great suffering and injustice. But God breathes life into all things. This week we hold in our heart all who suffered so much on that day. We offer our Nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And we pray that all people may come to know, trust, and believe in a God who can do the greatest of things. May God's promise of peace touch our hearts with healing and hope.



2026

SEPTEMBER

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	29	30			

PRESIDERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



SEPTEMBER 12

5:00 PM

FR. MICHAEL / DCN. JOE

SEPTEMBER 13

8:00 AM

FR. MICHAEL / DCN. JOE

9:30 AM

FR. MICHAEL

11:30 AM

FR. MICHAEL



SCRIPTURE READINGS for SEPTEMBER 13

+ Sirach 27:30-28:7

+ Romans 14:7-9

+ Matthew 18:21-35

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, September 6th **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**
After 9:30AM Mass, Worship Area

Monday, September 7th **DAILY MASS**
9:00AM Mass, Chapel

Monday, September 7th **PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED**
(In observance of Labor Day.)

THERE IS NO EVENING RECONCILIATION.

Tuesday, September 8th **IN STITCHES**
10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room

Tuesday, September 8th **ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT**
9:30AM - 12 NOON, Chapel

Tuesday, September 8th **FALL FESTIVAL MEETING**
7:00PM, Fr. Joe Room

Thursday, September 10th **JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES MTG.**
1:30PM - 3:00PM, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, September 13th **BAPTISM GATHERING**
9:30AM Mass, Worship Area, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, September 13th **HEALTHY SUNDAY**
10:00AM - 1:00PM, Atrium

Sunday, September 13th **YCC HOSPITALITY**
After 11:30AM Mass, Atrium

Sunday, September 13th **BAPTISMS**
1:00PM, Worship Area



"Whatever you do, do it wholeheartedly,
as if you were doing it for the Lord and not for others."

-Colossians 3:23

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, September 6

9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Neal & Concetta Romano
Tues. Barbara & Bill Burger (living)
Wed. Bob DeFilippis
Thur. Maria Conte

Saturday, September 12, 5PM Mass

Matthew Akuntius, Thomas Kearnes,
 James E. Guiliano, Denise Varadi

Sunday, September 13, Masses

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00AM Helen Dalamango
9:30AM Anne DiGregorio, Joseph Marcucci,
 John Hanley, Marina & Nello Botti,
 Maria DePalma
11:30AM People of the Parish

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

Bob Alderdice	Caroline Lazar
Andrew Arbocus	Carol Leahy
Alejandro Astegiano	Victor Lewandowski
Kathy Barry	Mary Lopez
Alison Bilski	Gerald Losquadro
Cole Brennan	Jeanne Marie Malley
Veronica Buscemi	Janet Mangano
Norma Capule	Hank McCormick
Judy Carlson	Loretto Narducci
Michael Castellano	Kevin Neeson
Mary Champagne	Andrea Nocito
Peter Chirafisi	Darin Pitkanen
William Ciccarelli	Patricia Pitkanen
Maria Ciminiello	Janine Pixley
Justin Curran	Colleen Prinz
Grayson Danielski	Carina Ranieri
Baby Phoenix Dawson	Bernardine Reichbach
Manuela Diaz	Mary Ann Reilly
Peter DiMauro	Rob Remhild
Claudia DiPalermo	Marcello Ricciardi
Rose Dugan	Lynn Rodger
Ann Egan	Sean Romeo
Lisa Eger	Elaine Ruane
Vincent Esposito	John Saccenti
Ralph Farino	Jacqueline Santamaria
Yolanda Fattarusso	Casey Schultz
Baby Lorenzo Follo	Kathy Schwinn
Sienna Fricke	John Serri
Linda Giordano	Dennis Shin
James Greene	Joan Shin
Linda Heinrichs	Celeste Sichenze
Ryan Huscher	Sue Southard
Debbie Jablinowski	Barbara Swingle
Kristen Kennedy	Calvin Tatone
	Grace Van Epps
	Peter Warns



Banns of Marriage

Jocelyn Valentin & Oscar Castellanos



*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!*

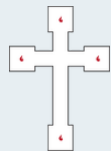
**If you would like to have the name of your
 loved one listed in our prayers for the sick,
 please call 631-265-2200 x122.**



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

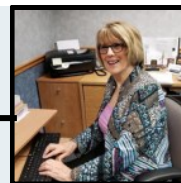
**Loretta Finnegan
 Patrick F. Gorman
 Rosario Martin
 Richard Russo
 Gerald Schulze**

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



YOU ARE CHURCH AT HOME

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



A family is our first community and the most basic way in which the Lord gathers us, forms us, and acts in the world. The early Church expressed this by calling the Christian family a domestic church. We can thank the Second Vatican Council for reintroducing this teaching. The point of this teaching is simple. As Christian families, we not only belong to the Church, but our daily lives are a true expression of the Church. Always important to keep in mind, our domestic church is not complete by itself. It needs to be united with and supported by our local parish and other communities within the larger Church. Remember, Our Lord has called us and joined us to Himself in and through the Sacraments. Therefore, we share in one and the same mission that He gives to the whole Church. Here are a few ordinary ways to carry out the mission of the church of the home:

- We believe in God and that God cares about us. It is God whom we turn to in times of trouble, and it is God to whom we give thanks when all goes well.
- You love and never give up believing in the value of another person. Before little ones hear God's Word preached at Mass, they form a picture of God drawn from their earliest experiences of being loved by their parents, grandparents, godparents, and other family members.
- You show your faith in God and set an example of Christian living for your children.
- As primary educators of your children, you share your knowledge of your faith and help your children acquire Christian values. Your example is the way your children will learn.

These are just a few ways to be church at home. None of us is perfect at this, but together all members of the Church can be faithful disciples of Christ.

Have a healthy, prayerful, and blessed week ahead!

WEEKEND
SPECIAL

Holy Cross Parish celebrates GRANDPARENTS' WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 12th & 13th



Gather up those special people we call grandchildren and come to Mass together that weekend. Or grandchildren, invite your grandparents to Mass here at Holy Cross.
A special blessing will be given at all the Masses. Hospitality will be offered after the 11:30 Mass.

Please check out the photo display in the atrium of the grandchildren of our very proud grandparents.



PARISH OUTREACH

Outreach is currently in need of the following items for the food pantry.
The next collection will be **September 5 & 6.**



**Rice
Jar Pasta Sauce
Boxed Potatoes
Boxed Cake/Brownies**

Thank you for checking expiration dates before donating.

Thank you for the donations of bags for our pantry.
We are not accepting any more at this time. Thank you!

Thank you for your continued support!

"Good works are links
that form a chain of love."

-Mother Teresa



Lions Recycle For Sight Program



Last Day to Donate is Friday, September 11

(Please note: Office closes at 12 Noon on Friday)

Refractive errors can be easily corrected with eyeglasses, yet millions living in low-income and middle-income countries lack access to basic eye care services. The **Lions Club of Nesconset** have recognized the urgent need for corrective lenses and collect usable glasses in their communities to support the **Lions Recycle For Sight Program**.

The Parish of the Holy Cross Outreach will be coordinating with the Lions Club in collecting your old or unused prescription glasses for this wonderful program.

If you have any old or unused prescription glasses you would like to donate, please bring them in and drop them off at the Outreach Office. Thank you.

We will be hosting a free vaccine clinic

in the Atrium in partnership with CVS pharmacy. Our local CVS pharmacist and staff will be available for the following:

**Flu shot - COVID - Shingles
RSV - MMR - Tdap**

Vaccinations are one of the best things you can do to help protect yourself from serious diseases. If any of these is of interest to you, please stop by our Healthy Sunday table in the Atrium between 10am and 1pm.
No appointment necessary.



HEALTHY SUNDAY

at Holy Cross

Vaccine Clinic

**Sunday, September 13th,
from 10AM to 1PM
in the Atrium**



Next weekend is the last weekend for donation collection

BASKET RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

2026

We are asking for your support
for one of our biggest fundraisers
of the year, our Basket Raffle!

***We are looking for donations of individual items
to fill and create baskets and
completed themed baskets!***

With your help,
we hope to make this fundraiser a huge success!

**Want to make a themed basket?
Here are a few ideas for baskets:**

- Coffee Basket
- Golf Basket
- Baker's Basket
- Rest and Relax - Spa Basket
- Dinner and a movie basket
- Kid's Basket

**Suggested items for baskets:
New Items only please**

- Gift certificates - (for products and/or services)
- Scratch-off tickets
- Wine/Liquor
- Event tickets - (play, movies, baseball game)
- Hand crafted items - (quilts, jewelry)

DONATIONS NEEDED!

**All completed baskets and all individual donated items
can be brought into the parish office during business hours
from August 15th to September 14th.**

If you have any questions and/or would like to be
on the Basket Raffle Committee,
please call Mary Ann Viscusi at 631-686-5280
or Linda Denninger at 631-265-7111.

Thank you for your continued support!



BASKET RAFFLE

A wide variety
of themed baskets will
be displayed, and tickets sold
after all the Masses on the
weekends of:

Sept. 19-20 & Sept. 26-27

Tickets are
3 for \$5 or 7 for \$10

Lucky winners will be drawn at our
FAMILY FALL FESTIVAL
on Saturday, October 3rd, at 3PM

Winners do not have to be present to win.

Be part of our
BIGGEST FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

BASKET RAFFLE FUNDRAISER 2026

*Last day to donate completed baskets
and individually wrapped items
is Monday, September 14th.*

Want to make a themed basket? Here are a few ideas for baskets:

- Coffee Basket
- Golf Basket
- Baker's Basket
- Rest and Relax - Spa Basket
- Dinner and a Movie Basket
- Kid's Basket

Suggested items for baskets: New Items only please

- Gift certificates -
(for products and/or services)
- Scratch-off tickets
- Wine/Liquor
- Event tickets -
(play, movies, baseball game)
- Hand crafted items -
(quilts, jewelry)

**All completed baskets and all individual donated items
brought on the weekend of September 12th & 13th,
can be dropped off in the atrium before each Mass.**

If you have any questions and/or would like to be
on the Basket Raffle Committee,
please call Mary Ann Viscusi at 631-686-5280
or Linda Denninger at 631-265-7111

Thank you for your continued support!

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____	 NIFTY 50/50 RAFFLE Drawing will be held at the Holy Cross Family Fall Festival on October 3rd, 2026 Return completed raffle with payment \$10 each
Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____	 NIFTY 50/50 RAFFLE Drawing will be held at the Holy Cross Family Fall Festival on October 3rd, 2026 Return completed raffle with payment \$10 each

Try your luck this fall with the
NIFTY 50/50 RAFFLE
Tickets are \$10 each.

Jackpot builds as tickets are sold.
Enter as many times as you wish.

How to enter:

Fill out the tickets to the left
and return it with payment
to the parish office by October 2nd.

*Additional raffle tickets for purchase can be found
in the parish office, and will be sold up until the
drawing on the day of the festival.*

**Drawing will be held at the
Family Fall Festival on October 3rd, 2026.**

The winner does not need to be present.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please mark your calendars for the following **Religious Ed. Grade Level Meetings:**

Books and folders will be distributed,
and we will go through the curriculum.

Level 7 Parent / Student Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15th at 7pm

Level 8 Parent / Student Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16th at 7pm

Level 2 Parent / Student Meeting will be held on Monday, October 5th at 6pm

Level 1 Parent / Student Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6th at 6pm

Level 3 & Level 4 Parent / Student Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7th at 1:30pm and 6pm

Level 5 & Level 6 Parent / Student Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 8th at 1:30pm and 7pm

All Meetings will be held in the Worship Area.

If you have any questions regarding Religious Education,
please call our office and speak with our Coordinator of Religious Education,
Jennifer Miller at (631) 265-2200, Ext. 112.



Blessing of Backpacks

**September
5th & 6th**

Bring your child(ren) to Mass with their backpack(s), and receive a blessing for the 2026-2027 school year.

We pray that all our students (and educators) will experience a school year that is safe, healthy, and full of excitement as the school year begins!

A BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the rest and relaxation we enjoyed over the summer.

Today, we pray for our children as they begin their new school year.

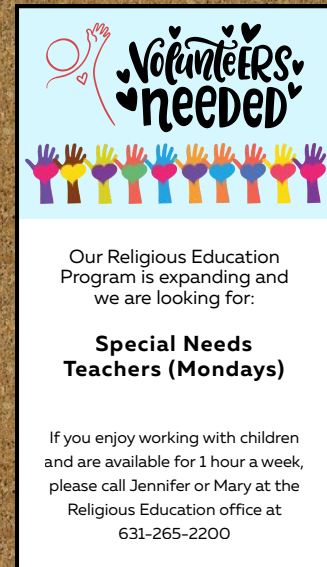
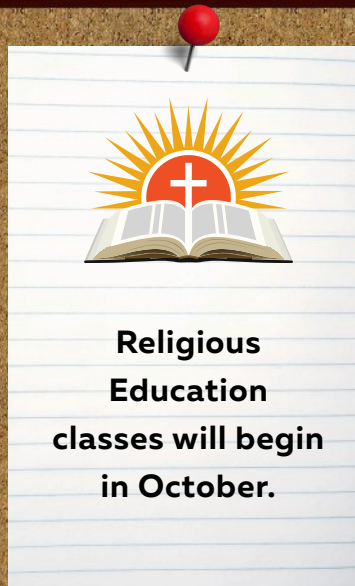
Bless them with joy at seeing friends, excitement at new experiences, and a love of learning. Watch over all who learn, replacing fear with joy, anxiety with peace, and tiredness with energy.

Grant teachers wisdom, patience, and joy in serving their students.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



**and Teach the Good News
to our Children**

CATECHIST MEETING

Together we'll experience planning ideas, effective strategies and a variety of helpful resources that can make learning about faith both enjoyable and meaningful. All Catechists are encouraged to share their own experiences and successful ideas as we learn from one another.

Catechists - please let the Religious Education office know which day you plan on attending.

Thursday, September 24th from 7pm to 8:30pm

or

Saturday, September 26th from 9am to 10:30am

Each session will be held in the atrium. Light refreshments will be provided.



“Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old
he will not depart from it.”

Proverbs 22:6





PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



Youth Community Cares

"Serving our youth as our youth serve others"

**YCC will be hosting hospitality
in honor of Grandparents' Day
after the 11:30AM Mass
on Sunday, September 13th**

**SIGN-UP SLOTS AVAILABLE
FOR YOUTH VOLUNTEERS**

Please register for these events to participate.

To register,

Email Angela at: youthcc@holycrossrc.org

and/or **join our Remind group**

to receive the SignUpGenius link:

rmd.at/ycchc

Additional information about volunteer opportunities
will be shared through the **Remind App**.



**Those in 6th grade and older
are invited to be part of YCC.**

This is a great opportunity to earn
community service hours while getting to know
and serve our church community.

**Join our Remind group
to receive information for YCC events
through the Remind App.**

Sign up for Remind at:

rmd.at/ycchc

You will receive Sign-Up Genius links
with information on how to participate!



Holy Cross Welcomes these Children Baptized in August



Caden Anthony Cove
Eliana Grace Esposito
Braxton Scott Ferguson
Blake Tracy LaManna
Charlotte Rose McGrath
Eloise Grace McGrath
Avery Maiella Middleton
Luciana Marie Porcillo
Bowen Thomas Prinz
Thomas Michael Schiotis
Carter Jace Sloman
Lucille Ruth Steinberg
James Joseph Tansey

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

May All of us Remember

May all of us remember with love and compassion this day.

May we grieve with those who still mourn,
and share memories with those who cannot forget.

May we draw strength from those who bravely responded,
and gave their lives to save others.

May we stand with strangers who became neighbors that day,
and remember their generosity and hospitality.

Above all God, may we remember your faithfulness
and learn to trust in your unfailing love.

-Author unknown



If you would like to purchase an
"At Home with the Word" book
for 2027, please sign up in the
hallway by the Parish Office,
and, if you are interested,
there is also a sign-up sheet
to purchase a **2027 Missalette**.

**The book orders will be placed
at the end of the month.**

PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



This Weekend we will also be collecting for Catholic University of America.

This weekend, the diocese will be taking up the National Collection for The Catholic University of America. Catholic University is a national research university with over 5,700 undergraduate and graduate students in more than 250 academic programs in the heart of Washington, D.C. By giving to the collection, you are supporting both future Catholic leaders, religious and lay, who are being formed by an exceptional, Faith-inspired education and the University's various research and training initiatives that support dioceses and parishes in responding to the most pressing needs of their faithful. The Catholic Project - an initiative that brings together clergy and laity to address the challenges that the Catholic Church faces in the U.S. contributing education, formation, research, events, and media, a master's program in Ecclesial Administration and Management, and a credentialing program that prepares recent graduates to serve as campus ministers are a few examples how the University is serving the Church and nation.



Children's Liturgy of the Word

WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN OCTOBER

Look for the starting date in future bulletins.

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.



Congratulations to our SUMMER CASH SIZZLE WINNERS!

\$25 winners

Peter Lambert
JoEllen May-Wadsworth
Mary Estock
Wendy Ringhiser
Denise Greening
Mary Jane Perry
JoAnn Leptich
Janet Benites
Daniel Calia
MaryEllen McCutchen
Daniel Calia
Wendy Ringhiser
Joel Valerio
Amy Cusumano
Diane Palermo

\$50 winners

Joseph Lescinski
Annamarie Mula
Paul Wangenstein
Joan Green
Daniel Calia
Lynne & Bruce Kollmar
Frank Gargiulo
Jose Del Cid
Dave & Jean Ryder
Josephine Fumai

\$100 winners

Wendy Ringhiser
David Halinski

\$250 winner

Wendy Ringhiser

Please join in prayer for the Prayer Intention of the Holy Father

SEPTEMBER INTENTION FOR THE CARE OF WATER

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.



For more information, please see: Popesprayerusa.net



PRAYER, ACTION & COMMUNITY



What is OCIA?

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is the process by which adults are welcomed into the Catholic Church.

If you know someone who might be interested in OCIA, please pass this information along.

If you wish to participate in OCIA, or if you have any questions about it, please contact Jude at (631) 265-2200 x116 or jpickel@holycrossrc.org

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

OCIA is open to:

- anyone who is unbaptized and has a desire to learn about the Catholic faith;
- anyone who was baptized in another Christian denomination and wishes to explore membership in the Catholic Church;
- Catholics who have been baptized but have not celebrated the Sacraments of Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Confirmation.

WHAT CAN ONE EXPECT AT OCIA?

Individuals who go through the OCIA process can expect:

- to know themselves and God better,
- to be supported in prayer by the entire parish community, and
- to understand Catholic teachings and practices more clearly.

All that is required is openness to grow and learn.

We grow together in faith.



Please stop by for complimentary refreshments which will be served after the 11:30AM Mass on Sunday, September 13th. We kindly ask that you wait to enjoy these special treats until after Mass, when served in the Atrium by our youth volunteers. Thank you! We look forward to seeing you then!



Practice of Charity

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

Today's readings challenge us to act compassionately and justly. In the letter to the Romans, Paul invites us to recall what we know as the Golden Rule, emphasizing that "love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law." In the Gospel, Jesus goes on to itemize how to make peace with and act justly toward those who wrong us. It seems to go against our human instinct to be patient in compassion and seeking justice, but that is the challenge of the Christian life!

Consider someone who you feel wronged you. Reflect on whether or how you addressed the issue. What would you do differently in light of today's readings?

Conversely, consider a time when you wronged someone else. How could you have been more loving and just?

Moving beyond the interpersonal encounter, where in your community can you be more loving and just?



The Community Action Poverty Simulation Saturday, September 26, 2026

Could you survive a month in poverty?

Across Nassau and Suffolk Counties 168,000 people currently live in poverty. Over 25,000 are children in grades K – 12. It is difficult to truly understand the situations that families living in poverty experience everyday – the decisions they have to make and the fears and frustrations they feel.

This is why we are inviting you to participate in the Community Action Poverty Simulation. Hosted by St. Patrick's Parish Outreach, Holy Cross Parish Outreach, St. Thomas More Parish Outreach and Catholic Charities, the program gives participants the opportunity to assume the role of a low-income family member living on a limited budget.

*We invite you to join us on **Saturday, September 26th at 9AM at St. Patrick's in Smithtown. Please RSVP to your Outreach Office no later than September 15th.** We look forward to your participation.*

9:00 AM: Check-in & Breakfast

9:30 AM: Start Time

11:15 AM: Debriefing (all participants are strongly encouraged to stay)



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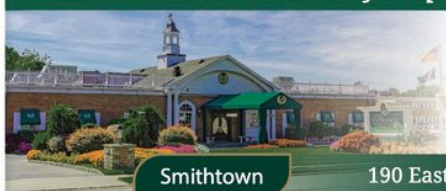
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