



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.



PREPARE

LUKE 3:1-6

Second Sunday of Advent - December 8, 2024



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. Holzmahnn..... 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
Music Minister/Webmaster

Mr. Roberto Maza
Custodian

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro
Bulletin Editor

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

*"The Lord has done great things for us;
we are filled with joy."*

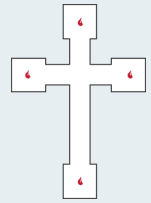
-Psalm 126:3

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



INTO THE LOOKING GLASS

Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael



Because of some early deadlines, this article is being written about a week before Thanksgiving. It is a bit of a challenge to be offering Advent thoughts when I haven't even chomped down on a turkey drumstick yet. So, allow me to offer another somewhat random reflection.

I started to get into the priesthood/spirituality mindset when I was in high school. Early on in that journey, someone introduced me to the idea of journaling. A journal is a kind of spiritual diary. It is a place to write down the things that have happened to you. You write down your hopes, dreams, fears, prayers, insights into self, insights into God, etc. I have a few random scribbles from high school, but it was in my college years that I started to give this more attention. It has never been a daily thing for me; there are times I will go a few months without writing anything. But I have continued to write here and there through the years. I now have over a dozen notebooks filled with my rambling thoughts that span over 40 years. As I already said, I make occasional entries, but rarely do I go back and read what I wrote. The past few weeks I spent a few evenings randomly looking through some of these volumes. What an adventure it has been.

It was a reminder of events and individuals I had not thought about in years. There are some references to people or stories I just don't remember. There are some things of life that I outgrew. There are some patterns and behaviors that have remained consistent through the decades. There are some things that are embarrassing to read. There are some things that prompted me to ask, "What was I thinking?" Some entries prompted me to smile. Some entries brought a tear to my eye. It has been an affirming, humbling, challenging, grounding, uplifting, prayerful experience to read the story of my own life as seen through my own eyes.

It is a treasure to have these insights into my journey, and I am so grateful I have it. I captured lots of moments through the years, but there are many more that have drifted away. But God has the complete story of my life. I truly believe he embraces the fullness of who I am and where I have been with love, compassion and joy as he does with all of us. It's not just in the moments when things go well that God loves us. He is at our side on the best days of our lives as well as the worst days of our lives.

The entirety of our lives cannot be spent reflecting on what was. But neither can we ignore our story. Journaling has been an enormously helpful gift to me, and I would encourage you to try it wherever you are in life's journey. The more we appreciate the path we have walked the deeper we become aware of God's presence in our lives. Dare to look into that mirror, there is a wondrous story to be seen, the person who God made us to be and the holy path we have walked.



*I would like to acknowledge the passing of Fr. Larry Lewis.
To Fr. Larry Lewis . . . There is an absence and emptiness
in Holy Cross this Advent. We would have been richly
blessed by your words. Rest in Peace.*





ON THE CALENDAR

CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



DECEMBER 14

5:00 PM

FR. MICHAEL

DECEMBER 15

8:00 AM

FR. MICHAEL

9:30 AM

FR. MICHAEL

11:30 AM

FR. MICHAEL



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 15

+ Zephaniah 3:14-18a

+ Philippians 4:4-7

+ Luke 3:10-18

Saturday, December 7th..... HOLY HOUR
3:45PM - 4:45PM, Worship Area

Saturday, December 7th..... K of C SALES
5:00PM Mass, Atrium

Sunday, December 8th..... K of C SALES
All Masses, Atrium

Sunday, December 8th..... BAPTISM GATHERING
After 9:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, December 8th..... OUTREACH GIFTS DUE
11:30AM Mass, Atrium

Monday, December 9th..... IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASSES
9:00AM & 7:00PM, Worship Area

Monday, December 9th..... SPECIAL NEEDS CHRISTMAS PARTY
4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, Atrium

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

Wednesday, December 11th..... ADVENT PRAYER
1:30PM, Atrium, Chapel

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

Thursday, December 12th..... ADVENT PRAYER
7:00PM, Atrium, Chapel

Saturday, December 14th..... RITE OF WELCOME
5:00PM, Worship Area

Saturday, December 14th..... YCC HOSPITALITY
After 5:00PM Mass, Atrium

Sunday, December 15th..... CHILDREN'S LITURGY
11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room

Sunday, December 15th..... BAPTISMS
1:00PM, Worship Area

Practice of Hope (Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2024")



This year, the Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Monday, December 9. The solemnity recognizes that Mary conceived without original sin so that she could be the vessel for God to become a human being among us.

Pray the joyful mysteries of the Rosary and recall the stance of trust and faith that Mary embodies as the Mother of God.



On Thursday, December 12, the Church celebrates the Virgin Mary's radiant appearance to Juan Diego at Tepeyac, Mexico, in 1531. Our Lady of Guadalupe is observed with great festivity around the world. Place her image near your Advent wreath and share the miraculous story of her apparition and how she drew millions to faith in her Son.

On Friday, the Church honors St. Lucy, a fourth-century martyr, whose name means "light," as the patron saint for those with eye disease. Legends tell how St. Lucy provided bread during a time of famine. Make or purchase two loaves of braided bread and adorn them with candles. Enjoy one and surprise a neighbor with the other.

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



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

Bob Alderdice
Theresa Arzillo
Alejandro Astegiano
Jo Barry
Kathy Barry
Barbara Bombace
Cole Brennan
Dan Bryan
Judy Carlson
Hank Champagne
Mary Champagne
William Ciccarelli
Jason DeLuca
Manuela Diaz
Ann Egan
Vincent Esposito
Ralph Farino

Yolanda Fattarusso
Sienna Fricke
Linda Giordano
Linda Heinrichs
Debbie Jablinowski
Kristen Kennedy
Roberta Lamb
Caroline Lazar
Carol Leahy
Mary Lopez
Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch
Viola Malek
Jeanne Marie Malley
Steve Matonti
Olivia Melia
Loretto Narducci

Darin Pitkanen
Patricia Pitkanen
Carina Ranieri
Rob Remhild
Liam Richards
Lynn Rodger
Sean Romeo
Elaine Ruane
Louise Scagnelli
Casey Schultz
Kathy Schwinn
John Serri
Celeste Sichenze
Bill Tanner
Grace Van Epps
Peter Warns
Emma Zeidman

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.

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Week of Sunday, December 8

Immaculate Conception Masses:

Mon. 9AM Josephine DePresca
7PM Nicholas Vicenzo

9AM Masses:

Tue. James Brandstadter

Wed. Charles Inghilterra

Thu. John O'Shea Sr. & Beverly Mahr

Saturday, December 14, 5 PM Mass

Greg Wirth, Cecilia Pinheiro Lopes,
Joseph Frey, Joan Stevenson,
Michael Castagna

**Sunday, December 15,
Third Sunday of Advent**

8:00 AM Joseph Wells & Barbara Hamlin

9:30 AM People of the Parish

11:30 AM Anthony DeVito Jr., Ozzie Cruz,
Inez Garrambone, Mary Faccio, Tina Viscusi,
Philomena Giannini, Richard Garbarino



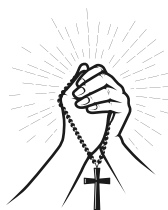
Banns of Marriage



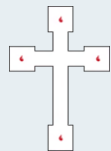
Elise Easton & Thomas Louro



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



Now may the Lord of peace
himself give you peace at
all times in every way.
The Lord be with you all.
2 Thessalonians 3:16



HOLY DAY THIS WEEK!

LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



Every year the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a most important Marian feast, is celebrated by the Church as a holy day of obligation. The feast occurs on December 8th. However, this year the feast is being moved to December 9th since it occurs on a Sunday. The solemnity of the Immaculate Conception cannot replace an Advent Sunday. If December 8th falls on a Sunday, the solemnity is transferred to the following Monday as is the case this year.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX issued a decree declaring that the Blessed Virgin Mary was free from all stain of original sin. This belief is central to the Catholic doctrine of the Immaculate Conception which holds that Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus Christ and that she was preserved from the sin of Adam and Eve in order to be a pure vessel for the Son of God.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a time to celebrate the great joy of God's gift to humanity in Mary and to recognize, with greater clarity, the truth that each and every human being has been created by God to fulfill a particular mission that he and only he can fulfill. The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is also a time for Catholics to reflect on the importance of Mary in the life of the Church. Mary is often referred to as the Mother of God and is seen as a powerful intercessor for all who pray to her. Her role in the Incarnation and the birth of Jesus is central to the Catholic faith, and her example of faith and devotion is an inspiration to millions of Catholics around the world. May your week be filled with the glorious light of our Blessed Mother!

Have a blessed, joy-filled, and peaceful week ahead!



Advent Wreath Weekly Prayer & Blessing for Your Home

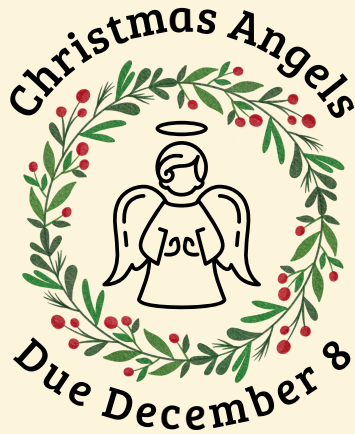
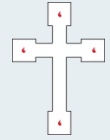
This year, why not give some meaning to your Advent wreath to deepen your family's understanding and appreciation for this beautiful Advent season? Set aside a time when the family is together to pray and light the candle for the appropriate week. It is a wonderful way to engage in something prayerful with those you love.

Second Week of Advent: December 8, 2024

Light two purple candles.

Pray: Dear Jesus, you entered our world on Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, as we strive to become the best version of ourselves, fill us with a deep and abiding peace. Help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. Amen.

PARISH OUTREACH



A VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER

TODAY, DECEMBER 8th, IS THE LAST DAY TO RETURN YOUR ANGEL GIFT CARDS OR GIFTS.

Please be sure all Angel items are here by the end of the 11:30am Mass.

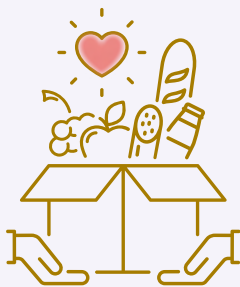
This afternoon, our Outreach committee will be sorting and allocating the gift cards for our families so that they have time to shop. The agencies will also be picking up their gift items this week.

We hope you will continue to keep our struggling neighbors in your prayers. Thank you for remembering them during this season of joy, hope and peace.

-Parish Outreach

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

The collection will be the weekend of December 14th & 15th.



**Toilet paper
Mayo - Rice
Peanut butter - Jelly
Mac and cheese
Snacks - Soup
Coffee (small cans)
Chicken in a can
Shampoo / Conditioner
Toothpaste**

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!



Local Outreach - Can you help?

LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND

LIFE CENTER OF LONG ISLAND has reached out to parishes across Long Island. They are asking for Winter Donations for all four of their centers. They are in need of gently used and new winter clothes for boys and girls in sizes Newborn through 4T, along with other baby care needs.

The four centers accepting donations are located in **Hempstead, Massapequa, Deep Park, and Smithtown.**

If you would like to help, please visit their website at **www.lifecenterli.org** for information on how to contact the centers, and other ways you can help. Thank you!

"Let there be Light"



After 30 years, the lighting fixtures in our Worship Area are failing and need to be updated. In addition, the obsolete dimming and control panel must be replaced.

For this reason, we are doing a special fundraiser to cover the \$98,200 cost of the project. We need to be able to make this improvement without utilizing our limited savings. This is an expensive undertaking, and we need your help.

We are grateful for your support as a faithful community, together assisting in maintaining the facility, so we can offer Masses, Baptisms, Communions, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals here at Holy Cross.

You can find envelopes for the "Let there be Light" fundraiser in the atrium, or you can do a direct donation using the Venmo or PayPal QR code.



If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Parish Office.

God bless you and Thank You for being part of "Let there be Light."



PayPal



Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love



An Invitation to Advent Prayer

**In the busyness of this Advent season,
why not take some time away with God?**



Join us for a special prayer experience
incorporating Dallas Jenkins' film, *The Shepherd*.

**Wednesday, December 11, 1:30 – 2:30 PM or
Thursday, December 12, 7:00 – 8:00 PM**

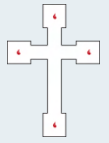
All parishioners are invited.

Please fill in the tear-off below and **return to the Parish Office by December 9th.**

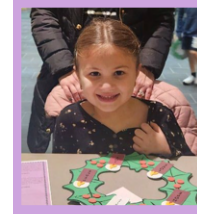
I will attend Advent Prayer on ___ Wed., Dec. 11, at 1:30 PM ___ Thurs., Dec. 12, at 7:00 PM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

WE GROW IN OUR FAITH



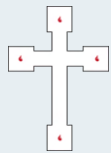
Our group of 1st graders show off their Advent wreaths. Beautiful!



Our 4th graders share the Advent wreaths they made. Great job, girls!



Thank you to our 8th grade volunteers who helped our 1st graders make their Advent wreaths. You're awesome!



PARISH REMINDERS



**Knights of
Columbus®**

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

will have a table in the atrium during
weekend Masses welcoming parishioners
on the following weekend:

December 7th/8th

Stop by and purchase chances to help support
Holy Cross and other charities

We welcome prospective members to join The Knights

For more information, visit our website:
kofc.org/joinus

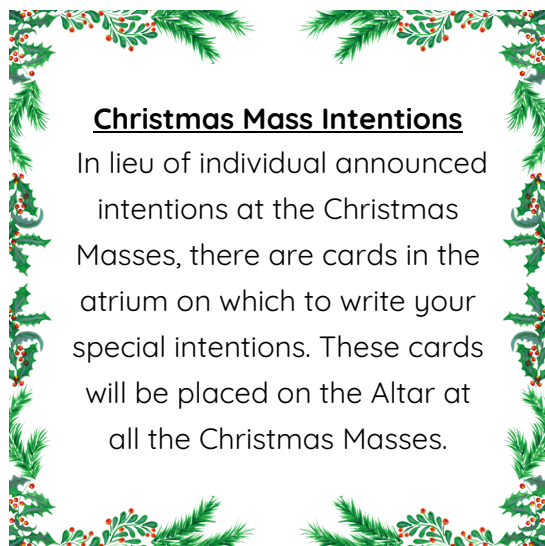


*Christmas Party
for the
Special Needs class*

on *Monday, December 9th*
from 4pm to 6pm



Please pick up your
Christmas Decoration orders
on Dec. 7th & 8th
after Mass in the Atrium.



Christmas Mass Intentions

In lieu of individual announced
intentions at the Christmas
Masses, there are cards in the
atrium on which to write your
special intentions. These cards
will be placed on the Altar at
all the Christmas Masses.

Missalettes

**If you didn't get a chance to order a
2025 Missalette, you can still purchase one
for \$12 in the Parish Office.**



**Youth
Community
Cares**

"Serving our youth as our youth serves others"

YCC (Youth Community Cares) is a new program in
which we encourage our youth church members to
participate in our church community through service.

We will be hosting hospitality after 5PM Mass on

December 14th

If you are a middle school or high school student
looking for community service hours,

Please register for this event to participate.

To register, send an email to Angela & Susan at
youthcc@holycrossrc.org and/or join our
Remind group to receive a SignUpGenius link.

Sign up for Remind at: rmd.at/ycchc

Sign up for Remind to receive notice about other
community service opportunities



Christmas 2024 Mass Schedule

The Nativity of the Lord

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 21st @ 5:00PM

Sunday, December 22nd @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

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

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Saturday, December 28th @ 5:00PM

Sunday, December 29th @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31st @ 5:00PM

Wednesday, January 1st @ 10:00AM

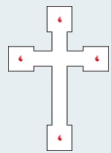
Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM

Wednesdays after the 9:00AM Mass

Monday, December 16th: After the 9:00AM Mass
and 6:30PM to 7:30PM





WE CELEBRATE WITH

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.

- Colossians 3:16

Sharing the Gift of Music and Community

For over 200 people, the afternoon of Nov. 24 was one of celebration, music, and joy at the Parish of the Holy Cross. Many thanks to our Hospitality Committee for their help with the reception, and to our gifted musicians, Brian, Johanna, Pam, Mark, Alison, Alexis, Anthony, and Elena for lifting our hearts in song and feeding our souls. Holy Cross is truly blessed!

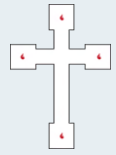


The Blessing of the Advent Wreaths

took place, and there was a wonderful turnout of our young ones who participated in the Children's Liturgy this past weekend. What a blessing it was!



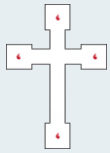
OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



We Celebrate Thanksgiving Together



Thank you to Handy Pantry, Nesconset, for providing the breads which were blessed at our Thanksgiving Mass and given to parishioners to take home and enjoy with their Thanksgiving dinners.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION



ADVENT COFFEE with JESUS and RETREAT



Join Bishop Andrzej
December 6 and 20, 2024 at 10 am
Coffee with Jesus Webinar

December 10 and 12 at 7:30 pm
Online Advent Retreat Reflections
all based on
Advent Scripture Readings

Great opportunity to prepare and nourish your mind and heart,
in preparation for Christmas.

To register,
please call Suzanne 516-744-6850
or email westernvicariate@drvc.org.

Once you are registered, you will be emailed the
ZOOM Webinar information prior to each session
of this Advent series.



We will meet on
**Tuesday,
December 17th,
1-3PM**
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 sewers create beautiful dresses. We hope that each dress symbolizes how special and loved each girl is. Our prayers are with them all.

If you would like to join us, we meet monthly to create the dress kits. If your talent lies in sewing, you are welcome to pick up a dress kit (with instructions) and create a beautiful dress for a girl in need.

*All are welcome to join us. Not sure what you can offer?
Our ministry leaders will help guide you as you work
alongside others.*

**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.**

ATTENTION

Middle School and High School Students

SAVE THE DATE!



Help make
no-sew blankets
for those in need.

MORE INFO
WILL FOLLOW

Friday, February 7th

Join our Remind group to receive a
SignUpGenius link
for available community service opportunities.

Sign up for Remind at: rmd.at/ycchc

Email: youthcc@holycrossrc.org



**EUCCHARISTIC
ADORATION
and
CATECHESIS**



Join **BISHOP ANDRZEJ** this Fall
for the monthly times of prayer and reflection called

EUCCHARISTIC HORIZONS

exploring the deeper understanding of our mysteries
of life in the light of perpetual gift of grace and real
presence of Jesus in **His Sacrament of Love**

ALL ARE WELCOME

December 17, 2024

At 7:00 pm

Church of St. Paul the Apostle

2534 Cedar Swamp Rd., Brookville

For further information

Call - 516.744.6850

Email - worship@drvc.org

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 through December, January and February.
- Drawing will be held February 28.

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 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!

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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(631) 234-6000

HAUPPAUGE
840 Wheeler Road (Rte. 111)
(631) 361-7500

BOHEMIA
1320 Lakeland Avenue
(631) 589-1500

HOLBROOK
825 Main Street
(631) 981-7500

PORT JEFFERSON STATION
523 Route 112
(631) 473-3800



OLSEN'S
REST HOME
Administrator George Olsen Jr.
366 Gibbs Pond Rd - PO Box 256
Nesconset (631) 588-5676

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Nesconset Parishioner

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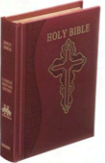
Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____



KERRY J. MAHER

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