

Parish of the

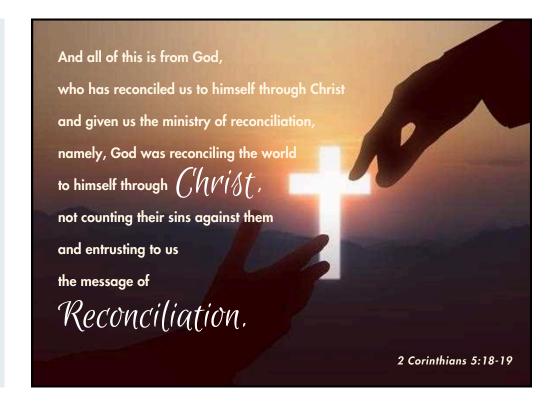
Holy Cross



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.



Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 30, 2025



Come and Pray with Us!

We celebrate Eucharist

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM; Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are livestreamed on Facebook.

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM; Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass



WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

PASTORAL TEAM

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

9 AM - 12 NOON

PASTORAL STAFF

Dr. Vincent Mazurek

Music Minister/Webmaster

Mr. Roberto Maza **Custodian**

Mr. Joseph Santoro
Office Support Staff

Mrs. Susan Ribeiro **Bulletin Editor**

email: susanr@holycrossrc.org

NEW OUTREACH HOURS: Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

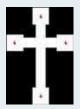
Evening Hours by Appointment Only



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



PLANNING THE JOURNEY



Weekly Reflection by Fr. Michael

As you know, I love vacations and any kind of travel adventure. But, believe it or not, planning the trip for me is almost as much fun as the trip itself. I love sorting out the many options of flights, hotels, sightseeing highlights, tours, scenic roads to take, etc. It's like a giant jigsaw puzzle that is slowly constructed so that the end product is a memorable time away. This time I am not talking about any kind of bus tour or cruise, I am talking about the great spiritual journey that will be taking place shortly: Holy Week.

Much of this past week was devoted to sorting out the many details of what takes place during these most important days. We don't have to create the story, Jesus himself lived out these defining moments of our faith. In many aspects, we don't have to reinvent the wheel, as the Church has specific prayers and rituals for each of the days. We are sharing a path and traditions that have endured for centuries. Yet there is abundant planning that still must be done. It's not like we just read the right prayers and then suddenly it is a holy moment. Environment, music, decorations, participants, set-up, etc. are some of the many details that need to be organized and scheduled.

Sometimes the work of pulling everything together gets tiresome, but it is worth the effort. As much as I love leading a great trip to somewhere exciting, this spiritual journey is something deeper and more profound that no travel itinerary can match. We unite our own journeys with that of the Lord. When this happens, the struggles and joys of our lives are not just isolated moments, but they take on greater meaning as we understand that we share in part of the journey of Christ. None of us wants to be alone. We long for companionship of friends and loved ones. We long for the presence of our God. During these days, we come together to share together in a story that goes beyond all of us. Yet, it is meaningful and touches the heart.

To be able to lead a community of believers through this spiritual journey is a great joy and privilege. Spiritually touching the heart of a person can be a personal and intimate moment, and it needs to be taken seriously. When there is an effort to cooperate with the Spirit and a prayerful environment is created, it is a deeply rewarding experience. I remember times in my own life when I was the recipient of the efforts of others to create a meaningful prayer experience. There is deep gratitude for those who lead us into holy mysteries.

Much of this work and attention falls to the priest. But by no means can one person make all these things happen. We need to work together. I am grateful to all those already involved in our liturgies. There is always room for more. Perhaps there is a gift you have to offer that can enhance our prayer. With some imagination many gifts can be offered that will benefit others. If you think you can lend a helping hand, we would love to hear from you.

We still have a few weeks to go before Holy Week. Look forward to and prepare for what can be a profound encounter with God's grace. How blessed we are to share in this great journey.



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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

ON THE CALENDAR

Saturday, March 29th 5:00PM Mass, Atrium	LI CARES FOOD DRIVE
Sunday, March 30thAll Masses, Atrium	LI CARES FOOD DRIVE
Monday, March 31st4:00PM - 6:00PM, Worship Area, A	trium SPECIAL NEEDS
Tuesday, April 1st 10:00AM, Fr. Joe Room	IN STITCHES
Wednesday, April 2nd 1:30PM - 3:30PM, Fr. Joe Room	BEREAVEMENT
Wednesday, April 2nd2:00PM, Chapel	ESTATE PLANNING & MEDICAID
Thursday, April 3rd 10:00AM, Atrium	SCRIPTURE STUDY
Holy Hour, which normally takes p has been rescheduled to April 12th.	lace the first Saturday of the month,
Saturday, April 5thAfter 5:00PM Mass, Atrium	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TABLE
Sunday, April 6thAfter All Masses, Atrium	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS TABLE
Sunday, April 6th 9:30AM Mass, Worship Area, Fr. Jo	BAPTISM GATHERING e Room
Sunday, April 6thAfter 9:30AM Mass, Worship Area	ANOINTING OF THE SICK
Sunday, April 6th 11:30AM Mass, Fr. Joe Room	CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
Sunday, April 6th 12:30PM - 1:30PM, Fr. Joe Room	OCIA
Sunday, April 6th	BAPTISMS

CELEBRANTS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES



APRIL 5 5:00 PM FR. MICHAEL

APRIL 6 8:00 AM FR. MICHAEL

9:30 AM FR. MICHAEL

11:30 AM FR. MICHAEL



SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR APRIL 6

+ Isaiah 43:16-21

+ Philippians 3:8-14

+ John 8:1-11

Brothers and sisters: Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

-2 Corinthians 5:17

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.

www.holycrossrc.org (631) 265-2200

1:00PM, Worship Area

WE PRAY... WE CELEBRATE... WE 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 Cole Brennan Judy Carlson Hank Champagne Mary Champagne William Ciccarelli Grayson Danielski Anthony DeGennaro Manuela Diaz Ann Egan Vincent Esposito Ralph Farino Yolanda Fattarusso Sienna Fricke

Linda Giordano James Greene Linda Heinrichs Ralph Hughes Debbie Jablinowski Kristen Kennedy Caroline Lazar Carol Leahy Victor Lewandowski Jo-Ann Loh Mary Lopez Gerald Losquadro Viola Malek Jeanne Marie Malley Steve Matonti Olivia Melia Loretto Narducci Andrea Nocito Darin Pitkanen

Patricia Pitkanen Carina Ranieri Rob Remhild Liam Richards Lynn Rodger Sean Romeo Elaine Ruane Jacqueline Santamaria Louise Scagnelli Casey Schultz Kathy Schwinn John Serri Celeste Sichenze Sue Southard 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, March 30, Fourth Sunday of Lent, 9:00AM Masses:

Mon. Nancy Conte (living) **Tues.** Peggy Murphy

Wed. Austin Wasielewski (living)

Thur. Kathryn Wiener

Saturday, April 5, 5 PM Mass

Kathy Kamine, Bing Eng, Gwyneth Morris, Henry & Mary Knipper, Fiorella Hufnal

Sunday, April 6, Masses Fifth Sunday of Lent

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto

9:30 AM Gloria Posimato, Josephine Posimato,

Dolores Barker, Bobby Alderdice,

Paul Gottehrer

11:30 AM People of the Parish



The **Bread and Wine** for the week have been donated in loving memory of **Gloria Posimato** by her family.



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

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



IT'S IN THE WORDS



LITURGY BYTES by Michele Hall



One of the most familiar prayers we have is the Our Father, a/k/a the Lord's Prayer. At every liturgy, we rattle the words off, but did we ever realize what those words mean?

Sometimes I catch myself rambling on the words of this prayer, just moving my lips whether it is during Mass or privately. I guess because, like most of us, we have said this prayer a million times that our minds go blank when praying the Our Father. We forget that this is the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him, "Lord teach us to pray." It is important to remember that when we pray the Our Father, not only are we using the words that Christ gave us, but we are praying the way that Jesus himself prayed. Each word of this prayer is the opportunity for deep reflection on who God is and how Jesus shows us the way to Him.

The language of the Our Father is a little different and brings us back to a different era, but it does unite every Christian throughout history. It is the same prayer that Peter, James, John, and Mary Magdalene prayed, not to mention Thomas Aquinas, Mother Teresa, Oscar Romero and all the Popes have prayed. The prayer clearly states that we must first forgive others to receive then God's mercy. Obviously, we have work to do. We must recognize that we need to forgive others and recognize that we are sinners. We ask much of God in this prayer, but our asking comes with a job for us to do.

Even when we forgive others, confess our own sins, and allow ourselves to experience God's mercy, this is not the end of the story. We must continually ask God not to allow us to go down a sinful path. Temptations are all around us, so it is important not to journey alone. We need our God to help us by saying OUR FATHER. Perhaps, Lent is a good time to slow down and let these words touch us more deeply.

Have a prayerful, peaceful, and safe week ahead!



For the Ride Home..... a Gospel Reflection for adults

What did you hear today in the Scriptures?

- The very familiar Gospel about the Prodigal Son was heard today. With whom do you identify within this story? Are there real-life folks like these we encountered that you know?
- How do you experience nourishing and sustaining you on your journey through life?
- Thinking about our nourishment in the Eucharist, how might God open your heart to more fully understand Christ's Real Presence?

Gospel Reflection for our young people

- Today we hear the story of the Prodigal Son. Jesus wanted us to understand that whatever we do wrong, we can always come back to our heavenly Father. If we ask God for forgiveness, we know that he will welcome us with open arms. How does this great love of God make you feel?
- Do you see the connection with the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession) when we ask God to forgive us and help us to become more loving and caring? Like the son in the Gospel story, we are filled with happiness and joy when we make peace with God. Think about that special joy when you go to confession the next time.



Holy Week & Easter Schedule 2025

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 20, 2025

> Masses: 8:00 AM 9:30 AM 11:30 AM (LS)

(LS) = Also Live Streamed

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Monday, April 14, 2025: 7:30 PM (LS)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Wednesdays in Lent: after 9:00 AM Mass Saturdays in Lent: 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Monday, April 14: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM & 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Good Friday, April 18: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM Holy Saturday, April 19: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 13, 2025

Saturday 4/12/25: 5:00 PM Mass Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM (LS)

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 17, 2025

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 8:00 PM (LS)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 18, 2025

Children's Service - 12:00 Noon (LS) Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 3:00 PM (LS)

HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 19, 2025

Solemn Easter Vigil - 8:00 PM (LS) No Afternoon Confessions or 5:00 pm Mass on Holy Saturday

We pray for our Candidate and Elect as they continue their preparation to celebrate their initiation at the Easter Vigil



Sarah Churchill



Tyler Caputo



Kevin Cardinale



Jarrod Cagnone



PARISH OUTREACH



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

The collection will be next weekend, April 5th & 6th.

Coffee - Tea - Potatoes (boxed) - Rice Shampoo - Laundry Soap

Thank you for checking expiration dates before donating.

Thank you for your continued support!



This Bereavement Group is for anyone dealing with grief.

All are welcome.

We will meet for six (6) consecutive Wednesdays.

The dates for the Spring Session are as follows:

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & May 7

from 1:30PM - 3:30PM in the Fr. Joe Room.

Losing a loved one is painful for anyone. How we cope is as unique as our fingerprints. It can be experienced as losing the ability to see the beautiful colors in a rainbow.

Our world seems so grey.

Making the time to listen to others dealing with grief enables us to begin to see the colors of life once again. This also allows us to share our stories and gain ways to move forward.

Come and join us as we work together and share this journey.

If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please call Outreach at 631-265-2200.

All who will be attending will be asked to complete a registration form.

The last day to RSVP is April 1st.

"Come to me, all who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you." Matthew 11:28

ESTATE PLANNING & MEDICAID ESSENTIALS:

PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS & FUTURE

As we age, planning for the future becomes more important than ever.

Join Brittni Sullivan, Esq. of Burner Prudenti Law, P.C. as she discusses how to protect your assets including property and second homes, the ways to reduce and eliminate taxes and the importance of having a sound estate plan in place.

We'll explore key strategies for long-term care planning, the application process for Medicaid and the latest updates to home care Medicaid in New York.



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2025 AT 2 PM

The Parish of the Holy Cross 95 Nichols Road Nesconset, NY 11767



RSVP to Outreach at 631-265-2200 x113 by April 1

Eat Simply...So Others May Simply Eat "SIMPLE" RECIPE



During the Lenten Season, "Eat Simply" asks how you and your family will be uniting yourselves with the struggling neighbors and with the starving of the world. We encourage you to reflect, discuss and decide how you will eat more basic meals during Lent as you participate in "Eat Simply."

What is a "simple meal" in your house? Below is a recipe that is easy and quick and is considered a "simple meal" in my home.

If you have a favorite "simple" recipe, perhaps you would like to share it. We would be happy to share it in the bulletin and on the website.

Healthy Veggie-Loaded Vegetable Soup

Ingredients:

- 2 TBS Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- 1 large onion (diced)
- 4 cloves garlic (minced)
- 3 medium carrots (diced)
- 3 stalks celery (diced)
- 2 medium (Russet*) potatoes (peeled and diced)
- 2 TSP Italian Seasoning
- 4 cups vegetable broth (Better Than Bouillon*)
- 1 cup water
- 2 15oz. cans of diced tomatoes
- 1 cup frozen* corn kernels
- 115oz. can of Kidney Beans (drained and rinsed)
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/4 cup of chopped fresh parsley
- 1 TBS lemon juice (freshly squeezed*, or to taste)
- 11/2 TSP kosher salt (or to taste)
- freshly ground pepper to taste

*These are suggestions.
Adjust recipe to your tastes and likings.

Directions:

- 1. Heat oil in a large dutch oven over medium heat. Once hot, add onion and one (1) TSP of kosher salt and cook for 5 minutes more, stirring often. Add garlic, carrots, celery, and potatoes. Cook 5 minutes more, stirring often. Add Italian seasoning and cook for 1 more minute.
- 2.Add broth, water, tomatoes, corn, beans, bay leaf, and several grinds of black pepper.
- 3. Bring to a boil and then reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, until the vegetables are tender, about 35 minutes.
- 4. Remove from heat and stir in parsley and lemon juice.
- 5. Remove bay leaf, and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Serve hot
with crusty bread*
and **Enjoy!**Kelley



Thank you so much for participating in the Eat Simply Program.



Parish Outreach







This weekend, please place your non-perishable food items in boxes in the Atrium.

Food Drive

Please bring your non-perishable food items to Mass the weekend of

March 29th & 30th



No glass jars, please



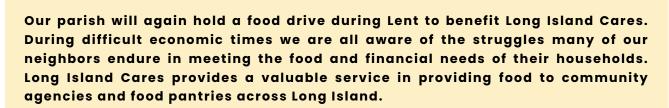
Long Island Cares most needed items:

- Pancake / Waffle Mix
- Hot and Cold Cereal
- Juice (plastic containers)
- Shelf-stable milk (example: Parmalat)
- Peanut Butter and Jelly/Jam (plastic jars)
- Canned Ham / Chicken / Tuna
- Pasta, Rice, Egg Noodles
- Cooking Oil
- Canned Vegetables, Fruits, Soups
- Cookies / Crackers / Granola Bars
- Shampoo / Conditioner / Body Wash or Body Soap
- Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
- Diapers and Wipes / Feminine Hygiene Products
- Pet Supplies



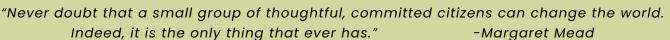






Thank you for reaching out beyond our community to help the struggling on Long Island.



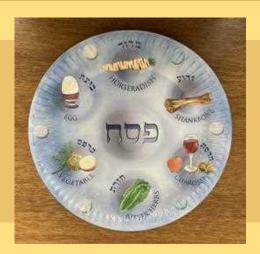


RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Save the dates for the Level 6 Seder

Monday, April 7th or Tuesday, April 8th at 6pm





Practice of Faith

(Excerpt from "At Home with the Word 2025")

St. Paul reminds the people of Corinth, and all of us, that Christ gave us the ministry of reconciliation and that he explicitly implored Christians to be reconciled to God. The Gospel narrative of the prodigal son and forgiving father illustrates God's infinite mercy for those who seek it.

Spend time prayerfully reflecting on today's Gospel. Imagine yourself in the place of the older son, the son who ran away and then returned, and the father of the family. With whom do you most identify? What does that reveal about the relationships in your life in need of repair?

Name for yourself the relationship that holds you in bondage. Ask God to guide you in seeking freedom from anger, judgment, frustration, and resentment. Attend to the ways God provides opportunities to take steps toward repairing your relationships in the coming days.

Catholics celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation each Lent as part of their spiritual preparation for Easter. Plan to seek this healing gift in the coming weeks.

Free health screenings

Mobile Outreach Bus

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



chsli.org

Parish of the Holy Cross 95 Nichols Rd, Nesconset, NY 11767

Thursday, April 10, 2025 10am-2pm

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

LENTEN EVENT

Tenebrae Is God inviting you? TENEBRAE Jesus, Light of the World

Tenebrae is a candlelight prayer service held in anticipation of our holiest week.

During **Tenebrae** (which means darkness), the candles are gradually dimmed as we experience

the Passion of Jesus Christ

through Scripture readings, meditations, and beautiful music.

We encourage all parishioners to join us for

Tenebrae on Monday, April 14th, at 7:30PM

as we prepare our hearts and minds for the great gift of Holy Week.

Something Special for the Easter Season

Many of you are familiar with the wit and wisdom of Fr. Albert Haas, OFM, from the Mission he offered at Holy Cross last year, or from his DVD series, "Catching Fire, Becoming Flame."

We are pleased to announce that another opportunity to experience Fr. Albert is coming to Holy Cross soon, through his follow-up series,



Fr. Albert

"Keeping the Fire Alive"

Who couldn't use a little encouragement and support on the Spiritual Journey? Please join us for 6 presentations by Fr. Albert, followed by small group discussion.

Wednesdays Thursdays
April 23, 30, May 7, 14, June 4, 11 or April 24, May 1,8, 15, June 5, 12
7:00 - 8:00PM 1:30 - 2:30PM

(Attendance at "Catching Fire, Becoming Flame" is NOT a pre-requisite for this series)

Please fill in (please print) and return this slip to the Parish Office by April 21st

Easter Series "Keeping the Fire Alive" with Fr. Albert

Name:			Phone:		
Email:					
I will attend:	_ Wednesday evenings	Thursday afte	ernoons		

PARISH COMMUNITY



This week at the offertory, we will also be collecting for the **Catholic Relief Services**.

Catholic Relief Services carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas.

https://support.crs.org



On Sunday, March 16th, members from Girl Scout Troops 3805 and 3661 were recognized at Mass.



will be selling chances and Easter magnets after all Masses on **April 5th & 6th** in the Atrium

Please stop by and purchase chances and Easter magnets to help support Holy Cross and other charities.

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





Banns of Marriage

Lydia Yeager and Rocco Minerva







The Parish of the Holy Cross and the Nesconset Fire Department are working together to offer

ADULT CPR and AED Training

Get your CPR & AED Certification in just one day! Learn and Practice Your Skill on How to Save Lives



SATURDAY, APRIL 5th 10AM - 1PM

Nesconset Fire Department 25 Gibbs Pond Road - 3rd Floor, Nesconset

Contact Outreach to see if spots are still available



Holy Hour Saturday, April 12th

3:45pm - 4:45pm in the Worship Area

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Psalm 34:2



Sunday, April 6th, will be the next date that the Anointing of the Sick will be offered after the 9:30 AM Mass







Since receiving word that I would be staying an additional year at Holy Cross,
I immediately started to ask myself, "Where should we go next?"

I plan on offering an <u>overnight trip to the Lancaster area</u> in the fall to enjoy a performance of "Noah" at the Sight and Sound Theater.

(Tentatively scheduled for November 13/14)

I'll let you know as soon as those details have been worked out.

What about a longer trip?

I recently had a conversation with a representative from Collette Tours.

My very first trip in 2000 was a Collette Tour. They offer some interesting itineraries.

Here are the ones that appealed to me:

Highlights of Norway
Iceland's Magical Northern Lights (Winter)
Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice (Fall/Spring)
Sunny Portugal

Not up for a European trip, how's about something domestic:

Branson/America's Music Cities

Mackinac Island

Wisconsin Dells

Mexican/Caribbean cruise leaving from New Orleans

I would love to hear your suggestions and input as to where you would like to travel.

I'm hoping we would have enough interest to fill our own bus,
but there are options for a smaller group to join with others.

Please fill out the slip below, including suggested destination locations, and return the slip to the parish office.

Name:
I'm up for either an international trip or a domestic trip.
I'm only interested in doing something domestic.
I'm only interested in doing something international.
Suggestions please, where would you like to go? It does not have to be one of the locations listed above.







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 March, April and May
- Drawing will be held MAY 29TH

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!					
Spring Cash Fling	Spring Cash Fling				
Name Address Town Phone	Address				
Spring Cash Fling	Spring Cash Fling				
Name	Name				
Address	I .				
Town					
Phone	I				

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