

# *The Parish of the Holy Cross*

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

**LET ALL 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.*



**Come and pray with us!**

**The Baptism of the Lord - January 9, 2022**

**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!

631.265.2200 + Fax: 631.265.2229 + Email: parish@holycrossrc.org  
Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM (closed 12:15 - 1 PM)

## PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann  
Pastor, ext.115

Deacon Joseph Maffeo  
Pastoral Minister, ext. 124

Mrs. Judith Pickel  
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Michele Hahn  
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112  
Director of Religious Ed.

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano  
Business Manager, ext.110

Mrs. Kelley Mowat, ext.113  
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mr. Brian Reich  
Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein  
Youth Minister

## PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth  
Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek  
Music Minister/Webmaster

Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111  
Religious Education Secretary  
(mpannone@holycrossrc.org)

Mrs. Barbara Shipman  
P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Mr. Roberto Maza  
Custodian

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra  
Weekend Sacristan

## Remembering Our Sick

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

Marietta Alvarado	Theresa Arzillo
Jo Barry	Kathy Barry
Patricia Becker	Barbara Bombace
Ann Callari	Eleanor Daly
Manuela Diaz	Ann Egan
Jim Emerson	Ralph Farino
Sienna Fricke	Bob Grieco
Debbie Jablinowski	Diane Jones
Roberta Lamb	Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch	Amanda Maddox
Viola Malek	Michael Maroney
Joseph McManus	Olivia Melia
Freddie Meyers	Carole Porcelli
David Reichbach	Henrietta Renken
Liam Richards	Elaine Ruane
Joseph Santamaria	Barbara Sherry
Kyle Sweeney	Chase Turano
David Velkas	Doreen Velkas
Judy Viskupic	Peter Warns
Danny Youngworth	

## Mass Intentions Schedule

### Week of January 9th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Stephen J. Ciaravella  
**Tue.** Jack Laub  
**Wed.** Wayne Earl Moore  
**Thu.** Marilyn Graham (living)

### Saturday, January 15th, 5 PM Mass

Nicola Petruzzo, Vincent Pelliccio, Naida Mariano,  
Thomas Hughes, Dino P. DelGaudio, Ellen Brady

### Sunday, Jan. 16th, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**8:00 AM** Rich Michta, John & Joseph Armstrong,  
Catherine Holzmann, Kevin Rooney,  
Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto  
**9:30 AM** Kevin Moran  
**11:30 AM** People of the Parish



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.

# THAT DEFINING MOMENT

*by Father Michael*

Today the Church celebrates the Baptism of the Lord. It is the final celebration in the Christmas season. At one point in time the Christmas season concluded with the Epiphany. But, around forty years ago, it was added to this holy season. And so, we continue with our Christmas music and decorations through this weekend. (Help yourself to a poinsettia after Mass).

One of the reasons why it was originally outside the Christmas season was that it is not a story surrounding the birth of Jesus. All of the other Christmas celebrations focus on the infancy narrative. But for Jesus, Baptism did not come until much later in life, probably around the age of thirty. Presumably he led a somewhat average childhood, adolescence and young adulthood. There is only one story from Luke which tells of him being separated from his parents when he was about twelve years old. The Gospel narratives cover his public ministry which began with his baptism. It is described as a dramatic moment in his life. The gospel accounts tell of the sky breaking in two, the Spirit descending like a dove, and a loud voice being heard from the heavens. After Jesus' baptism he retreated to the desert for forty days, and then he began his public ministry. For Jesus, this clearly was a defining moment.

For most Catholics, baptism is experienced in infancy. Understandably, they do not have any recollection of that moment in life. There may be pictures and stories, but the moment itself remains a mystery. We still believe it is a defining moment of life, but one that may take many years to understand and appreciate.

Many adults can recall a moment in their lives when they came to appreciate their own baptism and to believe they share in the grace of our Risen Lord. I was on a men's retreat in New Mexico when I was thirty-three years old. It was in the midst of a prayer service that I overwhelmingly experienced the power of God within my heart. The service had nothing to do with baptism or any other sacrament, but it helped me to see how the pieces of my life fit together in a way I never understood or appreciated. It became a defining moment in my spiritual journey.

Be mindful of the ways in which Christ has touched your life. Celebrate those experiences in which you came to know the power of the Lord dwelling within. Baptism will always be a beautiful celebration in the life of the Church. But that divine relationship may take the rest of our lives to embrace and understand.

# PARISH NEWS



*The Bread and Wine for the week January 9th-15th have been donated in loving memory of Aubrey Rose Keena & John P. Sibley Jr. by the Ringhiser family.*

## Weekly Calendar

- Sunday, January 9th** 6 - 8 PM  
 • YOUTH NIGHT Atrium
- Tuesday, January 11th** 10 AM  
 • IN STITCHES **CANCELLED** Fr. Joe Room
- Wednesday, January 12th** 11:30AM-2:30PM  
 • SENIORS Atrium  
 • FINANCE COMMITTEE 7:30PM Fr. Joe Room

## *Scripture Readings for January 16, 2022*



- + Isaiah 62:1-5
- + 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
- + John 2:1-11

## Banns of Marriage First Time



*Michele Hahn & Robert Hall*

## Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, January 15th/16th



- 5:00 PM Fr. Michael
- 8:00 AM Fr. Michael
- 9:30 AM Fr. Michael
- 11:30 AM Fr. Michael

## Holy Cross Senior Group

**WEDNESDAY 1/12 MEETING IS CANCELLED**

Our Holy Cross Senior Group is always looking for new members to join them for an afternoon of fun and socializing. You are invited to stop in on the **second and fourth Wednesday** of the month and meet some new friends. The meeting is held in the Atrium of the Church from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. **Our next meeting is January 12th.** We hope to see you there!



*Fun for Seniors*

## Special Collections

This weekend, January 8th/9th, will be the collection for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund.

Next weekend will be the collection for **Regional School Support**. Our children are our greatest natural resource!



Thank you for your support of these important collections!

## Dress a Girl Around the World - How Can You Help?

We are in need of parishioners who can donate 3 yards of 100% cotton fabric in bright, colorful solids and prints. Please drop off the fabric at our Outreach Office. Thank you!



# OUR 2021 BAPTISMS!

Baptism

On this Feast of the Baptism of the Lord,  
we celebrate the newest members  
of our parish family, baptized in 2021.  
May they continue to grow in wisdom and grace,  
supported by their parents  
and the entire Parish of the Holy Cross.



Chloe Francesca Cianflone  
Dominick Anthony Merlucci Jr.  
Lia Vena Merlucci  
Paisley Grace Nothdurft  
Hudson Asher Knopf  
Willow McKayla Mercado  
Cayley Julianna Ryan  
Parker James Fazio  
Gionni Douglas-Hank Mastermaker  
Olivia Grace Vasquez  
Mason John Abbate  
Samantha Rose Baiocco  
Madeline Hope Biasotti  
Riley Jordan Biasotti  
Matthew Pablo Trujillo  
Chase Wilder Heiser  
Connor Michael Klein  
Jake Vincent Mastro  
Veline Michel  
Samuel Kirk Packer-Hopke  
Charles John Vallone  
Cashton Anthony Davis  
Grayson Avery Murrell  
Stella Anna Paszek  
Cole Robert Snopkowski  
Emily Adriana Vasquez  
Sebastian Rey Viera  
Shea Noelle Drapala  
Giada Rose Fazio  
Caprina Franco  
Thomas Gregory Napoli  
Liam Brooks Ortiz  
Alessio Richard Tarantino  
Hayden John Valentine  
Julia Skye Culmo  
Kaylee Victoria Dillon  
Lawson Leo Fatone  
Lukas Jacob Martinez

Sofia Michelle Ortiz  
Madison Nicole Quinones  
Sophia Grace Rosales  
Madeline Grace DeRosa  
Viviana Grace Mancuso  
Charley Megan Miethe  
Dominick Francis Mortenson  
Blake Rose Ventimiglia  
Olivia Claire O'Connell  
Joseph John-Patrick Rello  
Audrey Fallon Serrano  
Jackson Ryder Distafano  
Monroe Grace Guercio  
Matthew Raymond Martino  
Vito Alexander Tobar  
Thomas William Wrobel  
Jacob Earl Bennett  
Elliott Alecander Bohn  
Andrew James Eimer  
Harper Rose Lamura  
Declan John Nordmann  
Donovan Kendrick Parrino  
Luke Michael Vitale  
Jameson Robert Welsh  
Isabella Charlotte Comiskey  
Logan Mark Gilroy  
Dylan James Hofmann  
Avery George Jaikaran  
Ayla Kate Moore  
Sebastian Dioni Perez  
Sierra Rose Perez  
William Joseph Payne  
Christian Michael Cecchini  
Chanel May Dasch  
Anthony Carmine Indovino Cawley  
Matthew Douglas Jones Jr.  
Trevor Marcial Lane  
Taylor Patrick Schoenig Jr.

Brady Hayes Ferguson  
Eliana Rosalie Georgatos  
Finnegan Alan Loescher  
Ty Joseph Sitar  
Gabriella Theresa Stabile  
Evelyn Grace Finocchiaro  
Tristan Reid Bartolotta  
Jace Thomas Biggio  
Beau Harrison Charity  
Alexander John Jedrys  
Cameron Edward Langenback  
Michael Anthony Pinto  
Chloe Rae Ruocco  
Luca Thomas Angotta  
Giavanna Antonia Cahill  
Jameson Michael Daly  
Grace Olivia Gobris  
Brayden Quintin Hodge  
Grayson James Seidl  
Jack Thomas Tennant  
Everly Grace Barton  
Delilah Mae Budani  
Luca Giuseppe Cascio  
Stephen John Arena  
Travis John Chambers  
Nicholas Joseph Lupo  
Jack Thomas Romuno  
Bradley James Wirth  
Cameron Thomas Gould  
Addison Grace Kallman  
Leonardo James Magaddino  
Claire Frances Rockfeld  
Gianna Marie Saluzzi  
Chelsea Madison Billig  
Peyton Jade Crane  
Nicholas Edwin Diaz  
Brooklyn Bella Razi  
Joanna Rae Schlick  
Andrew James Triolo

## Parents' Thanksgiving

*Loving God, we give you thanks for the gift of our child. We ask your blessings on our family.  
Confirm a lively sense of your presence with us, and grant us patience and wisdom, that our lives may show  
forth the love of Christ, as we bring up our child to love all that is good.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Children's Liturgy of the Word – Coming Back Soon!

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be coming back soon to the 11:30AM Mass. Please keep watching the bulletin for information on when it will resume! During the Mass, children from Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



## Help Needed!

We are looking for custodial help on Sundays from 10AM to 1PM. Must be 21 years or older. If interested, please contact Barbara DeStefano for salary and details at **631-265-2200 x110**.



## Adult Confirmation

Are you a baptized Catholic who has not celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation? If so, it's not too late! Classes will start soon in preparation for Adult Confirmation on the Feast of Pentecost. Call Jude at extension 116 for more information.

## Youth Ministry

Hello everyone! Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games? Do you want to build more of an understanding about yourself and your faith?

If you answered "Yes!" to any of those questions above, and you have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, then you **MUST** check out the **Holy Cross Youth Group!** The Holy Cross Youth Group is the perfect opportunity for you to continue to grow in your faith and build relationships with others in the parish.

If you have any questions or are thinking about joining us and you would like more information, then please contact Allie Roecklein, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, at [youthgroup@holycrossrc.org](mailto:youthgroup@holycrossrc.org) or call the parish office. Thank you!

**Our next meeting is January 9th from 6PM to 8PM in the Atrium!**



# STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS

A statement of your contributions to Holy Cross for the year 2021 will be sent to you upon request. If you would like a copy, please print your name and address on the form below and drop in the collection basket.

**Thank you for  
your support!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

## FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

**Come and Join  
the Fun!!!**

# FUNDRAISING

We are looking for new and old members to reboot our Fundraising Committee. This group currently runs 3-4 events per year including a holiday wreath sale, a basket raffle, and a variety of raffles (to name a few).



If you are creative, friendly, and organized, please consider sharing your talents and time in this way. Any time you have is a gift to our parish!

For questions, call or email Barbara DeStefano at 631-265-2200 x110 or [bdestefano@holycrossrc.org](mailto:bdestefano@holycrossrc.org)

**Please fill out the tear-off below and return to the Parish Office.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

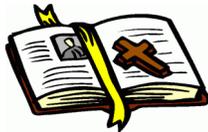
Email: \_\_\_\_\_



# MORE PARISH NEWS

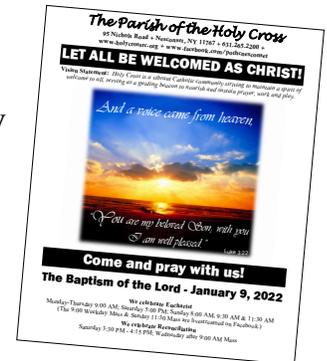
## Scripture Study Group

Are you free on Thursday mornings at 10 AM on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month? Would you like to deepen your understanding of the Sunday Scriptures? Come join a group of women who seek the same, and give Scripture Study a try! There is no commitment and no sign up. Just come at your own convenience to the meeting or meetings of your choice. Every meeting is independent. Our next meeting date is January 20th.



## Be a Bulletin Advertiser!

Did you know that the Holy Cross bulletin is printed for us each week free of charge? Not only that, our parish receives a part of the advertising commission. So, please frequent the fine establishments that advertise in our bulletin!



If your business could use some exposure, consider advertising in the bulletin. Each weekend, well over a thousand people attend Mass at Holy Cross, most of whom live and shop in Nesconset and the surrounding areas. Also, our bulletin is on our website [www.holycrossrc.org](http://www.holycrossrc.org) and reaches thousands of area families with information about your business.

If you are interested in advertising, or would like more information, please call The Church Bulletin Inc. at 631-249-4994.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

The Life Center of Long Island is in desperate need of Gently Used and New Winter Clothes for Boys and Girls in all toddler sizes. Please consider donating today!

The three centers in Hempstead, Massapequa, and Deer Park, and the new center in Smithtown opening on Fridays starting January 7, will all gladly take donations. If you cannot travel, please contact 516-798-8746 or [www.lifecenterli.org](http://www.lifecenterli.org), and a driver will pick up your donations.

Thank you for all of the time, talent, and treasure you give in the shared mission of protecting and cherishing every life, from the womb through eternity.

### WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

- Boys & Girls  
 Sizes 2T★3T★4T
- \*Coats
  - \*Snow Pants
  - \*Hats & Scarfs
  - \*Gloves
  - \*Warm Socks
  - \*Clothing
  - \*Boots
  - \*Gloves
  - \*Pajamas



# HOLY CROSS WEBSITE

## JUST SOME WORDS FROM THE WEBMASTER!!! THE PARISH WEBSITE... AND "JUST A LITTLE BIT ABOUT IT"

May I Welcome all of you today along with a statement that many parishioners & staff members have often heard me say. *"A Website is a 'Living Entity'... It is never finished or completed... because it is constantly in the midst of updates, changes & growth."* Having reiterated this, I hope that you enjoy using this Website as much as I have enjoyed creating it and daily enjoy updating it. *With its future growth potential, this Website will excitedly offer to all of our Holy Cross Parish Parishioners as well as our welcomed new, Prospective Parishioners, many more possibilities in the sharing of parish information with all who navigate here.*

I have taken great care in creating a Website in which "getting lost" while navigating its pages should be a "thing of the past." At the bottom of each Page there is a Question which asks... *"Where Would You Like To Go Now?"*... showing direct links to frequently viewed Webpages and thereby making it easier to navigate through the Website without having to always return to the Top Menu Bar. Please be sure to "scroll down" to the bottom of each page and surf it in its entirety in order to not "miss out" on any information that may be "lurking" beyond your screen's viewing area. Some Pages are lengthy and filled with an abundance of information as well as with "links to click" which will direct you elsewhere on the Website for quicker navigating. The Home Page is an example of this type of page.

The Home Page is the "Heart" of the Website and contains much information and "links" to other sources of information. It is comprised of Six Basic Sections: [1] General Parish Information, [2] the "Fast-Track" Section to speed you to particular areas of the Website by asking you Questions, [3] "Church News," [4] "What's Happening" in the Parish, [5] "Parish & Seasonal Upcoming Events" of the Parish & [6] "Schedules" for various Parish Ministries. Should you take the time to routinely navigate this page from top to bottom... it would be like "reading" the weekly Bulletin from cover to cover. Doing this will keep you updated on the "pulse" of the Parish... give you "the scoop" on all the Parish news & activities... and will provide you with the "links" to the appropriate pages for more detailed information, all the while eliminating extensive searching. (Always remember that if you had inadvertently misplaced or already discarded your Bulletin, you can find all of the same information on the Website since the Bulletin and the Website are both always in "sync" with each other.) If you already know the specific location that you wish to visit on the Website, you can use the traditional Menu Bar at the top of each page or the "E-Z" Navigation Page, which I describe in the next paragraph.

The "E-Z" Navigation Page is a very useful "Find and Go-To" feature that I developed specifically for the Parish Website since all of the Website Pages on this page are sorted by Parish Usage & Departmental Categories. I strongly encourage you to try using this page... It truly makes it "E-Z" to navigate and to find your desired page and information quickly. I also encourage you to "Subscribe" with your EMail to Holy Cross on the Home Page in order for you to be able to receive important urgent announcements & information, in the form of "email blasts" (never spam) from the parish in the future. I reiterate that you will never receive any spam from the Holy Cross Website. But most importantly, this will be just another way for the parish & staff members to inform you of important and useful parish information & events more quickly and easily by "keeping you in the loop" of detailed Parish situations.

Should you have any suggestions or ideas about incorporating any other useful Parish Information into the Website, please do not hesitate contacting the Parish Office with those suggestions. If your suggestions are *within the capabilities of the Website Design Software*, we will consider them to be implemented in future updates & design changes. We always welcome your suggestions for a better *"living" and vibrant Parish Website.*

We look forward to all of the days ahead that God graces us as true "family members" in this, our community of the Parish of the Holy Cross!

*Blessings to all... Hope that you enjoy your "Surfing"... & Happy Navigating!!! ~~ Vince M. Mazurek*

# BACKGROUND SCREENING UPDATE

## *The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People*

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

1. Attend **Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)**
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screen application. The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5-year intervals. volunteers/employees.

### **A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:**

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org)
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct - provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application offered during the Virtus registration process.

### **Active Volunteers:**

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened, you may be at—or beyond—the **5yr. rescreening requirement**. If this is the case, you will receive an email from **Sterling Volunteers** asking you to complete the background screening application online. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. **Please be aware—this is not a scam nor has your email been hacked.** The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically re-sign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

### **Edit Your Virtus Account:**

To access your Virtus account [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org) you will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or [helpdesk@virtus.org](mailto:helpdesk@virtus.org). Once in your account, review your account information—particularly your email address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen, in the green column, click "Update My Account." You will be able to make the necessary changes. Please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: [mmcmahon@drvc.org](mailto:mmcmahon@drvc.org); [amendoza-cantos@drvc.org](mailto:amendoza-cantos@drvc.org); [jwinter@drvc.org](mailto:jwinter@drvc.org); [pditomasso@drvc.org](mailto:pditomasso@drvc.org)

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days.

# TAKE A CHANCE!

## Winter Windfall

For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine. This fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish. In addition, many parishioners enjoyed participating in it. Unfortunately, it was one of the many parts of parish life that was lost to COVID. At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing. And so, we introduce the "Winter Windfall." This is a similar idea, however it will be offered initially on a quarterly basis.



- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through December, January and February.
- Drawing will be held February 28.

Because we anticipate smaller participation, there will be a different pay scale:

- \* 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. *(In the event the response is strong, we will resume a monthly drawing as soon as possible.)*
- Tickets will not be sold after Mass. 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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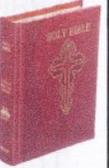
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