

The Parish of the Holy Cross

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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.*

Sorrow and mourning will disappear,
and they will be filled with joy and gladness.

Isaiah 35:10



Come and pray with us!

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 11, 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 Hall
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

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

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

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

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)

Ms. Karina D'Angelo
Bookkeeper, ext. 110

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:

Bob Alderdice	Theresa Arzillo
Jo Barry	Kathy Barry
Barbara Bombace	Cole Brennan
Dan Bryan	Ann Callari
Judy Carlson	Pattie Daly-Matonti
Jason DeLuca	Manuela Diaz
Matthew DiPietro	Ann Egan
Jim Emerson	Syl Evangelista
Ralph Farino	Sienna Fricke
Linda Heinrichs	Debbie Jablinowski
Diane Jones	Maureen Jost
Kristen Kennedy	Roberta Lamb
Dora Libretti	Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch	Viola Malek
Erin & baby Malley	Jeanne Marie Malley
Olivia Melia	Loretto Narducci
Mary Polik-Gunther	Carina Ranieri
Liam Richards	Elaine Ruane
Barbara Sherry	Celeste Sichenze
Kyle Sweeney	Bill Tanner
Peter Warns	Danny Youngworth

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of December 11th, 2022, 9AM Mass

Mon. Benedetto Rubino (living) &
Joseph Donlon (living)
Tue. John Bochenski
Wed. Robert Alderdice Jr.
Thu. Anna Giglioli



Saturday, December 17th, 5 PM Mass

Greg Wirth, Levasseur Family, Mary Hall, Michael & Mikey LaVecchia, Giovanni Leboy

Sunday, December 18th, 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Gloria Posimato, Michael Corcoran,
Anthony DiMichele, Joseph Bonelli,
George Yefchak, Carol Ripandelli,
James D. Bayer
11:30 AM Maria Licata

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.

ADVENT CONTINUES

by Father Michael

This is the longest Advent we can have. As Christmas falls on a Sunday this year that means the fourth week of Advent is a full week. We still have a full two weeks until we celebrate the birth of the Lord. May these days allow you to complete whatever preparations you need to do, but may it also be a spirit-filled time that lends itself to reflection and prayer. This third Sunday of the season is "Gaudete Sunday," which is meant to be a time of joy in the midst of the season of waiting.

This Wednesday we were serving as an annex station to the North Pole. The distribution of gift cards and presents took place. It is heartening to see how many people were touched by your generosity. In addition to the gifts themselves, moments like this are also reminders that people are not alone. Many people willingly share in their journey to offer a helping hand. A gift of hope is always a precious gift. Thank you for all you do to bring that gift to people within our community.

Last Sunday I attended the tree lighting service sponsored by the Nesconset Chamber of Commerce. Santa arrived for the festivities earlier than expected which threw the schedule of events out of order. But by 4:30 I blessed the tree and the switch was thrown. Although it was chilly, it could have been a much colder experience. It was a fun, little hometown gathering that I was happy to be at for the festivities.

The fiscal year for the Church operates on an academic calendar. The new fiscal year always begins on September 1st. It takes a while for us to summarize the concluding year and submit a report to the Diocese for review before the final reconciliation is complete. All of that was finalized this week. For the fiscal year that ended on August 31st, Holy Cross concluded with a surplus of \$17,000. This is a remarkable statement of your generosity and of our efforts to use well your gifts. Attendance is down about 15 - 20% of what it was pre-pandemic. In spite of having fewer people, the financial support has remained strong. We are indeed blessed. Not every parish is in this situation.

There are a few significant issues we will need to look at in the coming year. Our HVAC system is likely coming to the end of its life and will need to be replaced. There are other major repairs that need to be addressed. Have you noticed the colonnade in the courtyard is getting severely discolored and in places is beginning to flake apart? We are still trying to evaluate and prioritize what needs to be done. If any of you have an expertise in a particular area that would be helpful for this discussion, I would love to hear from you.

Wait with joy as we anticipate once again the gift of the Lord Jesus.

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MICHAEL

Our Enhanced Worship Area

The work of relocating the tabernacle is now complete. The “Joy of Family” sculpture is now permanently installed in the chapel. I am appreciative of all the input and support in bringing about these changes.

I want to offer my gratitude to a few specific people who were instrumental in completing this effort. Thank you to Vince Mazurek for his expertise in figuring out the many details of moving and securing the tabernacle in the sanctuary. Thank you to John Esposito for his diligence in making sure the Holy Family is safely installed as well as looking beautiful. There was an additional guardian angel who helped with the statue, but he asked to remain anonymous.

I’m always grateful to all those who make Holy Cross the best it can be.

Fr. Michael

Our Tabernacle



Joy of Family



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS

Christmas 2022 Mass Schedule The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

*Saturday, December 24th
4:00PM, 6:00PM & 10:00PM
(No 5:00PM Mass)*

Christmas Day

*Sunday, December 25th
8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM*

Solemnity of Mary

*Saturday, December 31st @ 5:00PM
Sunday, January 1st @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM*

Confessions

*Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM (except December 24th)
Wednesdays after the 9:00AM Mass
Monday, December 19th: After the 9:00AM Mass
and 6:30PM to 7:30PM*

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.

PARISH NEWS

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 11th	After 9:30 Mass
• BAPTISM GATHERING	Fr. Joe Room
• BAPTISMS	1PM Worship Area
Monday, December 12th	4 - 6:30 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS	Atr./Fr. Joe Room
Tuesday, December 13th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
Thursday, December 15th	10 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY	Fr. Joe Room
• DRESS A GIRL	1PM Atrium
Sunday, December 18th	9:30 Mass
• RITE OF WELCOME	Worship Area

Banns of Marriage

First Time

Erin Mitchell & Bailey Fiedorowicz

Special Collections



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, December 17th/18th



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

Scripture Readings for December 18th, 2022



- + Isaiah 7:10-14
- + Romans 1:1-7
- + Matthew 1:18-24

Christmas Flower Offering Envelopes

Flower offering envelopes may be placed in the collection basket at this time. Names of loved ones will appear in the Christmas bulletin.



This week at the offertory we will also be collecting for the **Religious Retirement Fund**. Thousands of elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests spent years working in ministries—such as Catholic schools, parishes, and hospitals—often for little or no pay. Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your donation helps provide medications, nursing care, and more.

Next weekend we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Thank you for your support of these collections!

LITURGY BYTES

Advent Bits & Pieces



In addition to the change of color in the church and the Advent wreath adorning the left side of the Sanctuary here at Holy Cross, there are a few other interesting tidbits about this special season.

A popular tradition during the Advent season is the Jesse Tree. This tree, named for the father of David, is one that is decorated throughout the Advent season with symbols of biblical people who are historically associated with or came before the birth of Jesus. It includes people like Abraham, Noah, Moses, Mary, Joseph and John the Baptist, to name a few. These folks are represented by symbols associated with them in Scripture and hung on the tree as Jesus' ancestors who waited for the birth of their Savior.

Another tradition to look for is in the third week of Advent when the color changes to pink. It is referred to as Gaudete Sunday which means joy. The third candle on the Advent wreath, which is pink, is lit this week. Rose colored vestments are worn, and the Scriptures all relate to John the Baptist. A sense of the nearness of Christmas forms in our hearts and minds even more. We are joyful that Christmas is almost here!

Last, but not least, our Lady plays a very important role in the Advent season. We have her feast day December 8th—the Immaculate Conception—and on December 12th we honor her under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. She is mentioned in Scripture from the moment of her “Yes.” She always points toward her Son, but Advent is an excellent time for us to also see the relationship of Mary with her Son. So, as the weeks are flying by, let us pray: Come Lord Jesus, we need you!

Have a joy-filled, blessed, healthy and safe week ahead! ~*Michele Hall*

PARISH OUTREACH

Thank You!

Our Thanksgiving Basket Program was, once again, a huge success. The outpouring of support for this Holy Cross favorite was tremendous. Forty-six beautiful baskets, filled with all the items needed for a Thanksgiving meal, were distributed to our grateful Outreach families.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped collect, organize, and distribute the baskets. You all made this day fun and helped to make everything run smoothly. Thank you to all those who shopped and created the baskets. Each basket was unique and overflowing with Thanksgiving goodies. Our Outreach families were thrilled to receive such beautiful gifts.

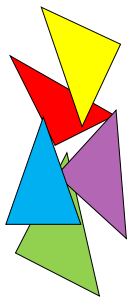
A special thank you to all those who signed up to create a basket but did not get the chance. The response to sign up was so great that we could not accommodate everyone. Next year we hope to get the chance to assign you a basket. This just highlights what I have come to know about the family of Holy Cross. It is a loving and giving community that lives the Gospel! I must extend a big “thank you” to our coordinators Susan Lampach, JoEllen May-Wadsworth, and Donna Akuntius for all their work in organizing volunteers, basket assignments, and running a wonderful event. Thank you!!



Kelley

Parish Outreach is looking for Eucharistic Ministers who would like to visit Olsen's Rest Home on a Wednesday morning at 10 AM to do a short service and distribute communion. If you are interested in this once a month commitment, please call Kelley at 631-265-2200 x113.

Dress a Girl Around the World



Cut-Ups: (those who cut the material and assemble our dress kits)
Our “Cut-Ups” will meet **Thursday, December 15th, from 1 PM - 3 PM** in the atrium. We will continue cutting out dresses for the little ones in need. **Please RSVP to Outreach at 631-265-2200 (limited space available).** No skill required. All are welcome!

We are, once again, looking for donations of larger pieces of cotton fabric (2-3 yards) for the body of the dress. Thank you in advance for your constant support and generosity of our *Dress a Girl* ministry.



Stitch-Ups: (those who sew the dresses found in our dress kits)
Our “Stitch-Ups” are welcome to pick up completed dress kits by calling the Outreach Office at 631-265-2200. Everything you need to complete a dress is included in a kit including instructions. Any questions—we are just a phone call away! Thank you!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

In preparation for Advent, our Level 1 Religious Education students made Advent wreaths with the help of our Confirmation candidates. Here are pictures of the enjoyable time they had.



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CONGRATULATIONS!

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Fall Cash Fling



*Congratulations to the following
Fall Cash Fling winners!*

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Name</u>
\$25	Frances Dolan
\$25	Carol Cook
\$25	Vie Zehrer
\$25	Jake Modica
\$25	Denise & Jim Reich
\$25	JoEllen May-Wadsworth
\$25	Frances Dolan
\$25	Angela Brucato
\$25	Arlene Lechner
\$25	Arlene Lechner
\$25	Arlene Lechner
\$25	Maria Fausone
\$25	Frances Dolan
\$25	Geraldine Schreiber
\$25	Maryellen McCutchen
\$50	Modzel Family
\$50	Geraldine Schreiber
\$50	JoAnn Leptich
\$50	Mary Estock
\$50	Frank Gargiulo
\$50	Barbara Burger
\$50	Amelia Marcucci
\$50	Marilyn Collins
\$50	Marilyn Collins
\$50	Joyce Knipper
\$100	Carolyn Schreiber
\$100	Carol Cook
\$250	Wendy Ringhiser



The December Dilemma 2022: Celebrating Religious Holidays in Public Schools

www.cffor.org

December holidays are always a challenge and educators often receive confusing advice about how to treat religious holidays. The last decades of increased diversity in our schools have challenged public schools to deal creatively and sensitively with student populations representing many faiths and beliefs, secular and religious. Happily, research reveals that celebrating Christmas and other holidays in the classroom brings children and teachers closer together, builds community links, and improves pupils' learning. ⁽¹⁾

A good way to deal with the December Dilemma is to begin the season with a focus on an often ignored holiday: Bill of Rights Day, December 15th. It was established to commemorate the adoption of the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution on December 15, 1791. Beginning the season with activities around the Bill of Rights offers an opportunity for students to reflect on the civic values of rights, responsibility, and respect that all Americans share as citizens, no matter their religious or secular beliefs.

Senior fellow at the Freedom Forum, Charles Haynes, recommends that before planning holiday activities in public schools, choral directors, teachers, and administrators should ask themselves three simple questions:

1. *Do we have a clear educational purpose?* Under the First Amendment, learning about religious holidays is an appropriate educational goal - devotionally celebrating is not.
2. *Will any student or parent be made to feel like an outsider by the concert, lesson or activity?* Most parents and students are fine with learning about religious traditions - as long as the approach is academic, not devotional.
3. *Is our overall curriculum balanced and fair?* December shouldn't be the only time sacred music is in the curriculum. Students should learn about religious music from various world traditions at other times in the school year. ⁽²⁾

Let your December explode with joy as you anticipate the Birth of the Christ Child with a manger on your lawn, Christmas lights on your bushes, a glowing tree in your window, a magnet on your car, a lapel pin on your coat, a donation to the local soup kitchen, a gift under your church's Giving Tree and an enthusiastic "Merry Christmas" greeting for all.

(ca3sproject.org, 12/22(2) tes.com, 12/20/19(1); *contidential* press.com, 11/10/20)

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 _____
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