

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.*



"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

Come and pray with us!

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 12, 2021

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 (except Dec. 25th); Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass;
Monday, Dec. 20th, after 9:00 AM Mass and 6:30-7:30 PM

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:

Jo Barry	Kathy Barry
Patricia Becker	Barbara Bombace
Ann Callari	Eleanor Daly
Manuela Diaz	Ann Egan
Jim Emerson	Ralph Farino
Sienna Fricke	Jeanne Gallo
Bob Grieco	Debbie Jablinowski
Diane Jones	Roberta Lamb
Gerald Losquadro	Charlotte Lynch
Amanda Maddox	Viola Malek
Michael Maroney	Joseph McManus
Olivia Melia	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

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.

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of December 12th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Denise Lamarque
Tue. Kevin Docherty
Wed. Edward Hillis
Thu. Jerome Stadtmuller

Saturday, December 18th, 5PM Mass

Gloria Posimato, Veline Therenciel, Timothy & Benito Tucci, Kathleen Grebinger, Levasseur family, Agnes Shields

Sunday, December 19th, 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Greg Wirth, Pietro Giaramidaro, Kate Strockbine, Alec Ross, Louis Italiano, Frank Perrino
11:30 AM Suzanne Bergmann



Scripture Readings for December 19, 2021



+ Micah 5:1-4
+ Hebrews 10:5-10
+ Luke 1:39-45

THE CANDLE OF JOY

by Father Michael

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is referred to as “Gaudete” Sunday. It is meant to be a day of joy or gladness in the midst of the season of waiting. It is one of only two days in the year when we use rose colored vestments. The process of waiting or anticipation can be demanding. We are called not to lose hope, but to wait with joyful anticipation as to what the gift of the Lord Jesus will mean for each of us. I pray that both on a practical level and a spiritual level you find joy and peace in these days that precede Christmas.

You may have heard about, or will soon be hearing rumblings within the Church of something called the “Synod on Synodality.” Pope Francis is calling upon the entire Church to enter into a time of dialog with one another. A synod is a gathering of Church leaders; it is a communal discussion. Sometimes the term is used in limiting the grouping to clergy, but it can also include a much wider scope of both clergy and laity. The intent of the Holy Father is to include everyone who wants to be part of this discussion. The details of how this will unfold are still forthcoming. Each Diocese is to create a format that will determine the nature of the discussions that each parish will enter. We will receive these guidelines in the coming months and will implement them here at Holy Cross. More information will be forthcoming.

I was happy to hear some good travel news this week. Breeze Airways will be coming to MacArthur Airport. This new airline was started by David Neeleman, who is the same man who founded JetBlue. Initially they will fly to Charleston and Norfolk with a few flights every week. The airline has plans for tremendous expansion which means there may be many more options for flights to many destinations in the years to come. I am a bit of an aviation and travel geek, so this is exciting news.

Sometimes the way in which life unfolds within parish life leaves me scratching my head. Although we are quickly approaching Christmas, this week the Holy Week and Easter schedule had to be submitted to our envelope company. They are the ones who mail out to the entire parish the little pamphlet containing the schedule for our holy days. For reasons I don’t understand, the deadline for information about our major feast days needs to be submitted four months ahead of time. I may not know what I am preaching about for Gaudete Sunday, but I can tell you what time confessions are during Holy Week.

May these days of Advent offer you an opportunity for peace and reflection as you prepare for your celebration of Christmas.

*Check out our new website www.holycrossrc.org and subscribe on the homepage to our parish email list. You will **never** receive spam from the parish, or solicitations for money, only important notifications!*

PARISH NEWS

The **Bread and Wine** for the week December 12th - 18th have been donated in loving memory of **Greg Wirth & Liz Shea** by the DeStefano family.



Fall Cash Fling

Congratulations to the following Fall Cash Fling winners!

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Name</u>
\$25	Karen Ross
\$25	Steve Reidy
\$25	Larry Marino
\$25	Robert Talay
\$25	Larry Marino
\$25	Connie Lipnicki
\$25	Paul Wangenstein
\$25	Joan Barrett
\$25	Connie Lipnicki
\$25	Frances Dolan
\$25	Janet Talay
\$25	Mary Estock
\$25	Geraldine Schreiber
\$25	Charles Schreiber
\$25	Karen Ross
\$50	Michael & Maria Iacovelli
\$50	Frances Dolan
\$50	Joseph Lescinski
\$50	Phyllis Sangimino
\$50	Dave Ryder
\$50	Frank Fumai
\$50	Janet Talay
\$50	Joyce Knipper
\$50	Teresa Minerva
\$50	Janet Talay
\$100	Janet Talay
\$100	Patricia Mulderig
\$250	Dave Ryder



Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 12th	After 9:30 Mass
• BAPTISM GATHERING	Fr. Joe Room
• BAPTISMS	1PM Worship Area
• YOUTH NIGHT	6-8PM Atrium
Monday, December 13th	4 - 6 PM
• GREATER NEEDS	Atrium
Tuesday, December 14th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
Wednesday, December 15th	7 PM
• THE MOMS' GROUP	Fr. Joe Room
Thursday, December 16th	10 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY	Atrium

Help Needed!

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

Youth Ministry

Join us for our next Youth Night this Sunday, December 12th, from 6 to 8PM! All new 9th graders who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation this October are invited to attend. For more information, contact our Youth Minister, Allie Roecklein, at youthgroup@holycrossrc.org.



PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, December 18th/19th



5:00 PM Fr. Michael/Dcn. Joe
8:00 AM Fr. Michael/Dcn. Joe
9:30 AM Fr. Frank
11:30 AM Fr. Frank



Banns of Marriage Third Time

Catherine Reiss & Travis Goehle

Thank You!

*At our 9 AM Mass on Thanksgiving Day, Father Michael blessed the bread for parishioners to take home to their Thanksgiving tables. We would like to thank **Handy Pantry** located at 279 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset, for their generosity in donating this bread!*

The Chosen, Season 1, Part II

The Chosen is a film series portraying the life of Jesus through the eyes of those who met him. Based on the Gospels, this series illustrates the stories of everyday people and the profound impact Jesus had on their lives.



Join us for 4 evenings as we view the second half of *Season 1*, Episodes 5, 6, 7, 8:

Wednesdays, January 5, 12, 19, 26, 2022 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.

Each episode is followed by small group discussion.

Participation in *Part I* is not required for attendance at *Part II*. However, if you missed episodes 1 – 4, you can download *The Chosen* app (for free) to view them.

Please fill in the tear-off below and return it to the Parish Office by December 27:

I would like to attend *The Chosen*

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

LITURGY BYTES

The O Antiphons



Among the traditions of Advent, like the Advent wreath, the Church has been singing or reciting the O Antiphons dating back to the early monastery prayers of the Benedictines. The importance of the O Antiphons is twofold: each one highlights a title for the Messiah, and each one refers to the prophecy of Isaiah about the coming of the Messiah.

For those who pray Evening Prayer, these antiphons accompany Mary's Magnificat canticle on the days December 17th through December 23rd. They use ancient biblical imagery drawn from the hopes of a Messiah from the Old Testament to proclaiming Christ as the fulfillment not only of the Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well.

December 17:

O Wisdom of our God Most High,
Guiding creation with power and love:
Come teach us the path of knowledge!

December 19:

O Root of Jesse's stem,
Sign of God's love for all his people:
Come to save us without delay!

December 21:

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of
Eternal light, sun of justice:
Come and shine on those who dwell
In the darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 18:

O Leader of the House of Israel,
Giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai:
Come rescue us with your mighty power!

December 20:

O Key of David,
Opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:
Come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 22:

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church:
Come and save man,
Whom you formed from the dust!

December 23:

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law:
Come to save us, Lord our God!

We can bring the above responses into our own prayers this Advent as we await the coming of Christ! Have a blessed, safe, and healthy week!

~~Michele Hahn



Christmas 2021 Mass Schedule
The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th
4:00PM, 6:00PM & 10:00PM

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th
8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM
(No 5:00PM Mass)

Sunday, December 26th

8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Solemnity of Mary

Friday, December 31st @ 5:00PM
Saturday, January 1st @ 10:00AM

January 1st & 2nd

Saturday @ 5:00PM
Sunday @ 8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM

Confessions

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:15PM (except December 25th)
Wednesdays after the 9:00AM Mass
Monday, December 20th: 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 OUTREACH

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!

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Come and Join the Fun!!!

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).

FUNDRAISING



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

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This weekend, at the offertory, we will also be collecting for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. From Catholic schools and hospitals— to parishes, retreat centers, and works of mercy—elderly sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have prayerfully served our Church and world. Most ministered for little pay. Your gift helps provide nursing care, medicine and other necessities.

Next weekend we will take up the collection for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Thank you for your support of these collections!



LET US PRAY

Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just:

You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith. Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility, and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



www.cffor.org

What, Exactly, is Religious Freedom? And How Does This Affect Public Christmas Displays?

Religious freedom protects people's right to live, speak, and act according to their beliefs, peacefully and publicly. No other nation has America's robust protection of religious freedom in a Bill of Rights. ⁽¹⁾

Since the principles of religious freedom prevent the cultural majority from using their power of the state to impose their beliefs on others, both religious and nonreligious, the government cannot become so powerful that it can tell people what to think and how to act. ⁽²⁾ This is especially important to know during the Christmas/Hanukkah holiday.

"Publicly sponsored Nativity scenes on public property are constitutional, especially when the display includes other secular symbols of the holiday. In fact, removing only the religious symbols of the holiday display would demonstrate hostility toward religion, which the First Amendment forbids," said Liberty Counsel. ⁽³⁾

learningforjustice.org; religiousfreedominstitute.org, 11/1/19; heritage.org(1)(2);

usccb.org; libertycounsel.org. 4/1/21(3)

*"God never gives someone a gift they are not capable of receiving. If He gives us the gift of Christmas, it is because we all have the ability to understand and receive it."
- Pope Francis*

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

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 _____
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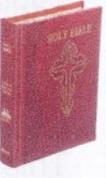
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