

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!

4th Sunday of Advent - December 18, 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

(Please see Christmas Schedule on Page 6.)

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 18th, 2022, 9AM Mass

Mon. Lorraine Olsen
Tue. Robert Tavis
Wed. John McCarthy (living)
Thu. Kristen Kennedy (living)



Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Masses 4, 6 & 10 PM All Prayer Card Intentions

Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day Masses 8, 9:30 & 11:30 AM All Prayer Card Intentions

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.



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.

THE GIFT OF WAITING

by Father Michael

From a very early age I had several lasting and defining experiences of waiting that were exciting and life-giving. Growing up, we never decorated our Christmas tree until the evening of December 24th. As a child, the anticipation leading up to that night was almost intoxicating. During the summer we used to go away to a little resort in New Hampshire for a one-week vacation. Again, the weeks leading up to our departure were delightfully filled with packing fun things to take and making plans of how we would spend our time. I don't know if this anticipation was something that my mother had to teach me or if it happened naturally, but I'm glad that was my outlook on life. The expectation of the event was almost as much fun as the event itself.

I'm not sure if this spirit of waiting is a lost art or if it is still encouraged. There are times when waiting is simply inconvenient. We utilize technology and other avenues to minimize the time we have to wait. After all, no one likes a delayed flight or sitting indefinitely in the examining room waiting for the doctor to make an appearance. But, even in those moments, can we exercise patience and not allow the passing of time to become a source of frustration and anger? A society that does not know how to exercise patience can quickly become uncivil.

I suppose one experience in life that naturally prompts a time of wondrous waiting is when a woman is expecting the birth of a child. Preparing for a new life is a unique experience. There is an understanding that there is no rushing the process. Preparations are made on practical levels, but also on an interior level the heart prepares for the gift that will be received. There can be a deep connection between the birth of a baby and the reality of God taking on human flesh and coming into the world. That is precisely the story we tell next week.

The Church gives us the season of Advent. It is a unique time in which we are called in some way to prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ. For some, family traditions and the preparation for Christmas festivities have become part of this season of waiting. In addition, there can be time for prayer which reminds us that we share in a profound mystery, the Lord God coming to us in the form of a precious newborn infant. It is a gentle way to welcome our God. Even though it is a story that has been told before, it can bring newness of life as it unfolds once again. The childhood wonder of Christmas may fade as we get older, but the mystery of God dwelling among us can grow ever deeper. May we use well this time to prepare our hearts to share in the gift of Jesus bringing us new life.

PARISH NEWS

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, December 18th 9:30 Mass
• RITE OF WELCOME Worship Area

Monday, December 19th After 9 AM Mass
• CONFESSION & 6:30-7:30PM Chapel
• K OF C INSTALLATION 7PM Atrium

Tuesday, December 20th 10 AM
• IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room
• MOMS' GROUP 7PM Fr. Joe Room

Saturday, December 24th 4PM,6PM,10PM
• CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES Worship Area
(There is no 5PM Mass today.)

Sunday, December 25th 8AM,9:30AM,11:30AM
• CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES Worship Area

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, December 24th/25th

Christmas Eve, December 24th

4:00 PM Fr. Michael
6:00 PM Fr. Frank/Dcn. Joe
10:00 PM Fr. Michael



Christmas Day, December 25th

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

Scripture Readings for December 25th, 2022

+ Isaiah 9:1-6
+ Titus 2:11-14
+ Luke 2:1-14



Special Collection

This weekend we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Thank you for your support of this collection!



Catholic Ministries Appeal

As we near the end of the year, all new pledges must be in by December 31, 2022 and paid in full by January 31, 2023. We thank you for your support of the 2022 CMA!

Parish Outreach

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.

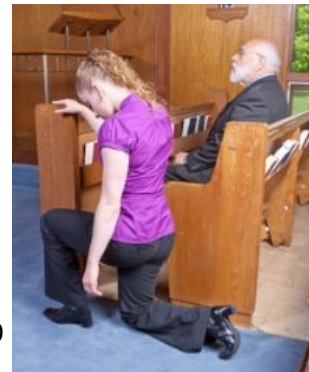
Also, we are thankful to our dedicated Pantry Stocking Teams that meet every month to stock the monthly food donations from our generous parishioners. This monthly sorting keeps our pantry shelves sorted and "in date" while restocking the shelves with donated food. We are grateful for their dedication and hard work month after month and year after year. We invite you to join a Pantry Stocking Team as a new pantry team member or as an alternate. If interested, please call Outreach at 631-265-2200 x113.



LITURGY BYTES

Why Genuflect?

As we arrive for Mass, our first gesture should be to bless ourselves with holy water. This simple gesture reminds us of our baptism, a most important day in our lives! Next, we find a place to sit, sliding ourselves into a pew. However, if the Blessed Sacrament is present in the sanctuary of the church, we GENUFLECT. In recent weeks, you may have noticed that this new posture is happening right here at Holy Cross. The tabernacle was moved a few weeks ago into the sanctuary behind the main altar which calls us to acknowledge the presence of the Blessed Sacrament by genuflecting when entering and leaving the church.



You might have noticed the priest, servers, etc., in the entrance procession also genuflecting at the foot of the altar at the beginning and end of Mass. The priest also genuflects at the altar after the elevation of the consecrated host, after the elevation of the chalice, and before receiving Holy Communion. The priest's genuflection at these points in the Mass helps us to recall the incredible gift of Jesus present in the Eucharist.

You might ask, why genuflect? The Catechism of the Catholic Church defines genuflection as a "reverence made by bending the knee, especially to express adoration of the Blessed Sacrament." By genuflecting or bowing deeply in a spirit of prayer and as a sign of adoration of the Lord, "we express our faith in the real presence of Christ under the species of bread and wine." To honor the true presence of Jesus Christ, all who pass before the Blessed Sacrament outside of Mass, as well as when entering or leaving the church should genuflect. If genuflecting is physically difficult, a bow is a reverent substitute.

The next time you come to church, allow your eyes to be drawn to the sanctuary, altar, and tabernacle. Notice the candle that is kept burning over by the tabernacle to indicate and honor the presence of Christ. Seeing the candle, which is called the sanctuary lamp, we can recognize that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. We genuflect in honor of the greatness of who is present before us—Our Lord, Jesus Christ! Recall the quote from Philippians (2:6-11) "At the name of Jesus every knee should bend....." when entering church in the future!

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

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 Scott at **Handy Pantry** located at 279 Smithtown Boulevard, Nesconset, for their generosity in donating this bread!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE & CONFESSION

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.

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

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 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

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 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____

Winter Windfall

Name _____
 Address _____
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Winter Windfall

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