

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 19, 2021

We celebrate Eucharist

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM; Saturday 5:00 PM (except Dec. 25th);
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:

Marietta Alvarado
Kathy Barry
Barbara Bombace
Eleanor Daly
Ann Egan
Ralph Farino
Jeanne Gallo
Debbie Jablinowski
Roberta Lamb
Charlotte Lynch
Viola Malek
Joseph McManus
Carole Porcelli
Henrietta Renken
Elaine Ruane
Barbara Sherry
Chase Turano
Doreen Velkas
Peter Warns

Jo Barry
Patricia Becker
Ann Callari
Manuela Diaz
Jim Emerson
Sienna Fricke
Bob Grieco
Diane Jones
Gerald Losquadro
Amanda Maddox
Michael Maroney
Olivia Melia
David Reichbach
Liam Richards
Joseph Santamaria
Kyle Sweeney
David Velkas
Judy Viskupic
Danny Youngworth

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 19th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Robert Tavis
Tue. Theresa Medaro
Wed. Lucille Cupito
Thu. Victor Lamarque

Friday, December 24th, Christmas Eve Masses

All Prayer Card Intentions

Saturday, December 25th, Christmas Day Masses

All Prayer Card Intentions

Sunday, December 26th, Holy Family Sunday

8:00 AM George Rivera, Marlene Starr, Adelaye Chersevani, Victor J. Chersevani, Victor M. Chersevani, Stephen Pino, Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto
9:30 AM Michael Corcoran
11:30 AM People of the Parish



Scripture Readings for December 26, 2021



+ 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28
+ 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24
+ Luke 2:41-52

THE FINAL CANDLE

by Father Michael

This year Advent is actually longer than it is most years, as Christmas falls on a Saturday. In spite of it being a long Advent, I hear many people saying it felt like a very quick Advent. (And, as a side note that has nothing to do with anything, has this been an exceedingly long autumn? On several occasions I was convinced I raked up the last of the autumn leaves, only to discover a new wave of them appearing a few days later.) Anyway, there is no rhyme or reason to figure out any of this, but we are unmistakably in our final days before Christmas.

One issue that we need to deal with this year is once again wearing masks for Mass. That is the most recent directive we received from the Diocese, which was in response to the new, New York State mandate. Unfortunately, we did not receive this update until last Monday. In fact, the announcement made last weekend at Mass was a different message. I hope that the short notice does not lead to people being confused or upset when they come to Mass.

If you recall, attendance last Christmas was quite sparse. We anticipated great crowds, added a Mass, required reservations, and in the end many people chose to stay home. This year parishes are speculating on what may happen, but most are anticipating a large turn-out for Mass. Attendance has gone up over the last few weeks here at Holy Cross as well as most parishes. We anticipate the largest crowds to be at the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve and the 11:30 AM Mass on Christmas Day. The lightest Masses will likely be the 10:00 PM on Christmas Eve and the 8:00 AM on Christmas Day.

This week's gospel reading speaks about Elizabeth experiencing the leaping of the infant (John the Baptist) in her womb when Mary comes to visit her. There is no doubt that a child leaping in the womb is a sign of life and an experience that brings hope and anticipation. We celebrate the birth of our Lord every year. We may take for granted the power of what we proclaim on this day. Christmas is meant to be more than a festival celebration for one day and then returning to our routines as if nothing happened. We pray that this celebration of Christmas may touch our hearts. May we be open to all that Jesus may offer us and respond with faith and trust.

While your experience of waiting may be far different than Elizabeth's, may these final days of Advent allow you to be filled with hope and anticipation. May you have a blessed Christmas with your family and loved ones.

*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 19th - 25th
have been donated
in loving memory of
Anthony DeVito Jr.
by his family.*



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.

Decorating the Christmas Tree in the Children's Memorial Garden



Beginning the week of December 20th, you are invited to bring a special ornament from your home and place it on the Christmas tree in the **Children's Memorial Garden**. As we decorate the tree, we remember and pray for our deceased children of all ages.

You can come and remove your special ornament the week of January 2nd, as the season of Christmas will be soon coming to an end. Wishing you and your family a blessed and peaceful Christmas.



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 meeting dates for 2022 are:

January 6th and 20th

February 3rd and 17th

March (every Thursday during Lent) 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st

April 7th and 21st

May 5th and 19th

June 2nd and 16th

PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Upcoming Masses

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

Sunday, December 26th

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



Weekly Calendar

Monday, December 20th After 9 AM Mass
• CONFESSION & 6:30-7:30PM Chapel

Tuesday, December 21st 10 AM
• IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room

Friday, December 24th 4PM, 6PM, 10PM
• CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES Worship Area
(The Parish Office closes at 12 noon.)

Saturday, December 25th 8AM, 9:30AM, 11:30AM
• CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES Worship Area
(There is no 5PM Mass today.)

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

Christmas Prayers

Christmas Tree Blessing



O Lord Jesus,
Encircle this tree with your blessing.
May its twinkling lights remind us of the hope and promise of your coming.
May we find joy in the memories we share
in its tinsel and trimmings.
May the presents we place beneath it
give rise to an appreciation for the gift
of your presence among us.
We ask this in your holy name.
Amen.

Christmas Giving



Come Lord Jesus come.
Fill our gift giving with generosity,
making us aware of the true gift we
have to share with loved ones.
Deepen our sense of joy,
making us ever grateful for the
gifts others bestow upon us.
Enlarge our capacity for compassion,
making us mindful of how we might give to
those in need of sustenance and consolation.
Come into our hearts and homes this Christmas, Lord Jesus.
Amen.

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

As required by New York State, all parishioners two years of age and older need to wear masks on parish grounds.

Christmas 2021 Mass Schedule The Nativity of the Lord

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

Livestreamed → 4:00PM, 6:00PM & 10:00PM

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th

**8:00AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM
(No 5:00PM Mass)**

← Livestreamed

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**

**The 4PM Mass on Christmas Eve and the
11:30AM Mass on Christmas Day will be livestreamed.**

PARISH NEWS

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.



Special Collection

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



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).



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: _____



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!

Outreach Services Offered

In November, Outreach offered 173 services to 59 households. Those 59 families consist of 25 children, 75 adults and 14 seniors. This number does not include our Thanksgiving Basket Program. Thank you for your generous support of Outreach and the families we serve!

YOUTH MINISTRY

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 have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, then you **MUST** check out the **Holy Cross Youth Group!**

For more information, contact our Youth Minister, Allie Roecklein, at youthgroup@holycrossrc.org.



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 opening soon in Smithtown** will all gladly take donations. If you cannot travel, please contact 516-798-8746 or 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

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 _____

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Name _____
 Address _____
 Town _____
 Phone _____



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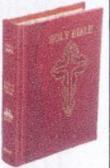
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