

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.*

Merry Christmas!



Come and pray with us!

**The Nativity of the Lord - December 25, 2021 &
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Dec. 26, 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

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	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	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 26th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Bob DeFilippis
Tue. Mary Sarosy
Wed. Arthur Buckhout
Thu. Lillian Buckhout

Friday, December 31st, New Year's Eve Mass

5:00 PM Jane & John J. Daly

Saturday, January 1st, New Year's Day Mass

10:00 AM Vito Ligabo

Saturday, January 1st, 5 PM Mass

Papite Theodate, Daniel Monahan, Jackie Harvey, Mildred & Charles Berger, Stephen Eith

Sunday, January 2nd, Epiphany of the Lord

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Lyn Quinn, Maria Sagliocca, Marco Sagliocca, Vincent Pelliccio, Mary Conlin
11:30 AM Maria Eannacone



I HOPE YOU STILL FEEL SMALL...

by Father Michael

A few weeks ago, on the evening of December 13, a meteor shower passed through our area. I made the effort to be outside in the middle of that chilly night, and what a wonderful experience it was. First, I am amazed that meteorologists and astronomers can even predict when something like this is about to happen. Then I was delighted in the random and unpredictable flashes of light that crossed the sky. It did not have the drama or flare of a fireworks display, but yet there was something exciting about it. You never knew when the next meteor would pass by. Many were barely even noticeable, just a slight streak of light. Even the biggest of the meteors lasted less than a second, but they were grand.



Experiences like this are both important and grounding. We need reminders that there is always something bigger than any of us at work. We need to have moments when we are not in control. All of us have responsibilities that need to be met. There are serious issues that need to be addressed in our world. But if we do not keep our place and role in perspective, life will become overwhelming and impossible. At times we need to be people of action. But we also need to have moments where we step back and be reminded that all of us stand in the shadow of a powerful and loving God. It's not always about who we are and what we do. Sometimes we must simply allow ourselves to be enveloped in a God whose embrace always goes beyond our finest efforts.

The busyness of life can make us lose sight of this reality, so God keeps sending reminders to keep us in balance. Sometimes it is a show that Mother Nature presents. Other times there is a human dimension to it. Who does not stop and embrace the joy of a newborn child? It's one of those experiences that breaks our normal routine and thought patterns. We stop and delight in the gift of that child. On Christmas we are reminded that at a moment in time, God came into the world in the form of a newborn child. Be as enthralled with Jesus as you would be with your own child. Allow that experience to change your outlook on life, at least for a few moments. Don't rush to get back to "what's gotta get done." Jesus can transform hearts and lead us to paths of life. Heaven knows our world needs that.

In her 2000 song "I Hope You Dance," Lee Ann Womack sings, "I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean." She's onto something great here.

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I HOPE YOU STILL FEEL SMALL... *continued*

She offers a tremendous insight into our own spiritual journey. We need to stop, breathe, and allow God to be God. We need to understand we are but a small piece in the great story. None of this is meant to belittle us or make us feel useless or helpless. Rather it helps to define that relationship we share with God. Sometimes we are called to participate with the Spirit and do good and holy work. But there are other times we simply need to let God reveal his presence and feel humbled and blessed to share in it. The greatness of God will never be experienced if there is too much of us in the way. Without any shame, guilt, or embarrassment we need to understand that we play a small place in the great universe.

None of us deserves the gift of the Lord Jesus. He is not our reward for getting it all right. Rather, he is the one who calls us back to that holy path that each of us must walk. May this Christmas be a time to be reminded of that profound presence of the Lord.

Christmas blessings to you and your loved ones. Pray for peace in our hearts, and peace in our world.

Sunrise of Praise (Psalm 113:1-9)

a reflection by Thomas Merton

Sunrise is an event that calls forth solemn music in the very depths of humanity's nature, as if one's whole being had to attune itself to the cosmos and praise God for the new day, praise him in the name of all creatures that ever were or ever will be.

I look at the rising sun and feel that now upon me falls the responsibility of seeing what all my ancestors have seen, in the Stone Age and even before it, praising God before me. Whether or not they praised him then, they must praise him now in me.

When the sun rises, each one of us is summoned by the living and the dead to praise God.

PARISH NEWS

The **Bread and Wine** for the week December 26th - January 1st have been donated in loving memory of **Arthur & Lillian Buckhout** by Jennifer & Charles Miller.



Weekly Calendar

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

Tuesday, December 28th 10 AM
 • IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room

Friday, December 31st 5 PM
 • NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS Worship Area
 (The Parish Office is closed today.)

Saturday, January 1st 10 AM
 • NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS Worship Area
 • HOLY HOUR 3:45-4:45PM Worship Area

Sunday, January 2nd After 9:30 Mass
 • ANOINTING OF THE SICK Worship Area

Solemnity of Mary Mass Times

(not a Holy Day of Obligation this year)

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

(The Parish Office is closed on December 31st.)

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, January 1st/2nd



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

Scripture Readings for January 2, 2022



+ Isaiah 60:1-6
 + Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
 + Matthew 2:1-12

Holy Hour for Sanctity of all Human Life

We offer our Holy Hour on the first Saturday of the month from 3:45 to 4:45PM in the Worship Area. The next one will take place on **Saturday, January 1st**. Please come and spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament praying for God's gift of life to be recognized by all.



Merry Christmas from Religious Ed



The Religious Education Department would like to wish all our Catechists and their Families a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy, Healthy New Year** filled with many blessings. Thank you for all you do for our Parish!!
Tricia and Mary

UPCOMING EVENTS

Children's Liturgy of the Word - Coming Back Soon!

Beginning on Sunday, January 9, Children's Liturgy of the Word will resume at the 11:30 AM Mass. During the Mass, children from Kindergarten through 3rd 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.

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.

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 Nativity

St. Francis of Assisi is associated with creating the first nativity in the city of Greccio. The Franciscans quickly spread the practice of creating nativity scenes with live animals and actors. Living scenes remained popular. However, so the scene could remain for a longer period of time, stationary pieces were used to depict the birth of Jesus.



As this tradition spread to other regions throughout the world, the nativity scene adapted to local customs. In Francis' native Italy, the figures began to resemble folks from the local village and not biblical figures. By the 19th century Protestant churches, who initially rejected nativity scenes, began to accept them as the popularity spread through a wider Christian world.

Francis' original nativity was inspired by his trip in 1221 to the Holy Land and Jesus' traditional birthplace. He was deeply moved visiting the site where God became fully human. Hoping others would enjoy this spiritual experience, he encouraged believers to make pilgrimages to Bethlehem. When conflict among the powers vying for control of the Holy Land made the trip too dangerous, Francis decided to do the next best thing by bringing Bethlehem to the pilgrims!

The popularity of nativity scenes grew and grew and brought people to the possibility of building their own. Today, it is on display in village squares, in our homes and most especially in our houses of worship. We do this to remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas.

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

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, and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, then you **MUST** check out the **Holy Cross Youth Group!** The Holy Cross Youth Group would like to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas! For more information, contact our Youth Minister, Allie Roecklein, at youthgroup@holycrossrc.org



PARISH NEWS

Merry Christmas!

Thank you to everyone who sent Christmas greetings and expressions of good wishes. In all the ways you show your generosity, it is greatly appreciated. Your kindness fills us with gratitude, for you are our greatest gift. As this year of 2021 comes to a close, we pray that this coming year will be filled with peace in your hearts, in your homes and in our world. We pray that we will all grow in love of God, and that we will find His joy in each other as we serve His people together.

Fr. Michael, Dcn. Joe, Jude, Michele, Tricia, Kelley, Barbara, Brian, Allie, Jane, Mary, Barbara, Vince, Roberto & Mary

Thank You!



We would like to thank **Michele Dry Cleaners** located at 65 Smithtown Boulevard in Smithtown, NY, for their generosity in maintaining the linens and vestments used at Mass. They have donated this service to Holy Cross for many years!

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**.



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 OUTREACH

AN OUTREACH CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!

We were once again blessed with a tremendous response to our Christmas Angel project. Our Outreach families were so incredibly grateful for the gift cards for their families. As parents and family members, we can appreciate how good it is to provide for our children's needs. By enabling these moms and dads to do the same accomplishes so much more than just handing them a gift someone else has bought. They can now provide in a way they could not before.



This year we helped 43 families with clothing and toys for 101 individuals, including 57 children. We collected enough gift cards to provide each person with approximately \$25 for clothing needs and an additional \$25 per child for their toy requests. Also, each household received a supermarket card to help with their holiday meal. **This means we collected and distributed over \$4900 in store gift cards and about \$2400 in supermarket cards.**

Wishing you the peace, hope and joy of our Lord during this holy season of Christmas. Thank you to all who donated money, gift cards, gifts for the agencies we support and special donations. Your generosity has allowed us to continue serving those in need and bring hope during this challenging year. On behalf of all those we serve, THANK YOU! You are truly special ANGELS! Christ is born again every time we choose to give to another, walk with another or empower another.

In addition, the parish also provided gifts to the following agencies:

- 40 Gifts to our friends at Olsen's Rest Home
- 23 Gifts to Mercy Haven
- 146 Toys to Pronto in Brentwood
- 83 Gifts to Talbot House (# represents each item in packages)

This is a phenomenal effort that requires many volunteers to accomplish. A special "THANK YOU" to angel cutters, shoppers, pantry stockers, sorting elves, gift deliverers and card writers. This would not be possible without your help and support.

May God bless you and your loved ones today and in the year ahead. With a grateful heart, I wish you and your families a Very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Gratefully,

Kelley

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!

Parish Outreach Food Pantry

We would ordinarily be collecting for our **Parish Outreach Food Pantry** on January 1st/2nd. But, due to your generosity, the pantry is well stocked and we don't need anything at this time. Thank you to all!

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

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____



Holy Cross - 1st Quarter Financial Highlights - September 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021

Revenues:

- Collections this quarter were up 12.4% as we took in \$144,644 in comparison to last year this quarter which was \$128,711. Our RAMR was up 26.9% taking in \$8,849 in contrast to last year this quarter at \$6,975. Overall collections for this year were up 12.1%.
- The “Fall Cash Fling” was our fall fundraiser. We profited \$1,505 for the 3 months it ran. We are appreciative to those who participated and for the extra income it brought in. Congratulations to the lucky winners of the Fall Cash Fling!
- Religious Ed. was up 13.1% this quarter over last year. Contributing to that were some Confirmation donations, and donations made from the very successful “Spooky Spectacular Halloween Party” that was held in October for our little ones. In Religious Ed. we currently have 872 students from the 568 families that are registered in our program for the 21-22 school year.
- Outreach was down .9% for this quarter. In dollars we took in \$8,614. In October there was an outpouring of kindness shown during the Respect Life Month “Diaper and Formula Drive.” Those items were sent to the Life Center in Deer Park. In addition, we were able to distribute 36 baskets for Thanksgiving and had more folks offer to donate baskets than were needed. This once again reflects the overwhelming generosity of our parish community and your willingness to help our neighbors who are currently experiencing difficulties in various ways.
- Our “Seniors’ Club” is back in full swing and regularly meeting twice per month in the atrium. Additionally, our “Stitchers” meet weekly on Tuesdays, and our Scripture Study group is here twice per month as well. It is great to see groups actively attending the programs that our parish offers throughout the week.
- Income generated through Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, and Mass Intentions were all up again this quarter over last year at 22.9%. We have continued to have many new babies welcomed into our Catholic Faith and quite a few couples saying “I do.”
- Our rental income, which is generated from the Verizon tower, once again brought in \$8,694 this quarter. Other substantial income included Votives, a donation from our Eagle Scout John Gemmell in the amount of \$369 which was a surplus from the expenses of his project, and other donations. All included we deposited \$29,916 from these items, an increase of 20.9% over last year this time.
- Diocesan Collections were down 15.2% for the quarter. Your generosity towards these worthy causes, no matter how big or small, is always greatly appreciated!
- Compared to the same time last year, overall income was up 14.2% this quarter. We offer our sincerest thanks to you, our generous parishioners, for your ongoing support and dedication to our parish.

Expenses:

- Salaries were down 9.4% this quarter. Contributing factors to this decrease include bookkeeping changes and decreased hours in some areas. Sadly, our staff said goodbye to Vincent Matula who is moving towards job opportunities that will further his career. We are thrilled to still see him at Mass on Sundays and wish him the very best.
- Religious Ed. expenses were down this quarter by 3.7%. Tricia and Mary did a fabulous job of utilizing materials and minimizing waste when purchasing supplies.
- Outreach expenses were up 83.1% this quarter over last year this time. We offered many additional programs this fall and were able to help clients once again with household bills. As always, we are happy to have the means to assist our friends who could use a helping hand at this time.
- Office expenses were 43.8% lower this quarter over last year, and building expenses were down 13.4%. Rectory expenses were down 33.6%. Good job turning off your lights Fr. Michael!
- Major repairs were down 26.1% for the quarter.
- Overall, this quarter in comparison to last year, expenses were down 4.2%.

Holy Cross - 1st Quarter Financial Highlights - September 1, 2021 – November 30, 2021

Events, Programs & Projects this Quarter Included:

Continued from Previous Page

- Holy Cross Feast Day with the Knights of Columbus BBQ
- “A View from the Pew” Liturgical Series
- Bereavement Support Group
- Catholic Health Mobile Outreach Bus
- Outreach School Supply Drive
- Teen & Parent Mental Health Awareness Nights
- October Respect Life Month “Diaper and Formula Drive”
- “Dress a Girl” Program
- “Cooking Out of the Pantry”
- Sacrament of Confirmations
- “Spooky Spectacular Halloween Party”
- The beginning of “The Chosen” Series
- The reintroduction of the “Moms’ Group”
- An upgrade of the church sound system
- Two Eagle Scout projects (a concrete platform for our clothes drop box, and new outdoor Stations of the Cross)



Christmas Flowers in Honor/Memory of...

We remember and pray for **all** our loved ones -
those **living** and those **who have gone before us**.



RAY & KAY ANZALONE
TOM & LEE MARTINO
ANNMARIE POLIZZI
FRANCES & GIOVANNI GRASS
VINCENT & MILDRED SERRANTONIO
MICHAEL SIMONETTI
ROBERT RICCARDI
MR. & MRS. NICHOLAS LAMB
MR. & MRS. WILLIAM MCQUADE
ROBERTA LAMB
RICHARD LAMB
TOM WALSH
MOM
JIM
O'SHEA FAMILY
SCHULTZ FAMILY
GERTRUDE COGLIANO
JAME COGLIANO
JULIA MALEK
JOSEPH MALEK
PAULINE ORFANO
ED HAU
MARY & GENE CALHOUN
RICHARD ROBBINS SR.
DIANA BIANCO
VITO BIANCO
KATHRYNANNE PINKERTON
MICHAEL ROSATO
WILLIAM BUSH
ELEANOR DAVIN
CHARLES TIBBETTS
FRANK DiMARTINO
MR. & MRS. FRANK TIBBETTS
MR. & MRS. W. CROSBY
THERESA WEISS
THOMAS M. WHITE
GREG TRUBE

ANNE RUDNICKI
EDWARD RUDNICKI
VINCENZO BARATTA
CLAIRE PELLICANI
PETER PELLICANI
FRANK RANIERI
MILLIE NEITLICH
JOHN STARACE
GRACE GRESALFI
MARGARET & JOE ERICKSON
MACY & STAN ERICKSON
JAMES EVANS II
MARYLYN EVANS
MR. & MRS. WALTER KUCZWAJ
MR. & MRS. E. MAKOWSKI
SUSAN MILLER
BARBARA HALL
RICHARD “COACH” HARRINGTON
MR. & MRS. WALTER KUCZWAJ
LORRAINE BRODERICK HARRINGTON
ED & PAULINE RAHILLY
THOMAS RAHILLY
MARY SHIPMAN
RAYMOND W. CONWAY
DOROTHY CONWAY
RAYMOND M. CONWAY
GRACE JOHNSON
BARBARA MARTIN
ANN & JIM BRENNAN
PATRICIA SCHUSSLER
JAYNE KILEY
ROSE KNIPPER
JAMES A. PERRY
JANE DALY
JOHN J. DALY
MARGARET MAHER
HENRY KNIPPER

MICHAEL H. KNIPPER
MARY E. KNIPPER
ELLA & MEADOW SACCONI
JOSEPH LIBRETTI
JOSEPH SACCONI
IRENE SACCONI
JOHN & ANNA FINI
ELISA MAROTTA FINI
GIOVANNI & GRAZIA FINI
SALVATORE & ADELE VITI
MR. & MRS. O. DeSANTO
MR. & MRS. G. GARGIULO
SANDRA SAFIANOW
KATHERINE BALDI
MARY CONLIN
DAMIEN PICKEL
JIM PICKEL
JOELITO TAN SEYAN
RHODORA GUZMAN
TORIBIO VELASCO
SIMPLICIA HIBIONADA JOPSON VELASCO
JOSEPH PARZIALE
GERARD GRUENER
ELIZABETH SHEA
SAVAGE FAMILY
MR. & MRS. ROBERT CIOTA
MR. & MRS. THOMAS SEAMAN
DEBBIE CHRISTY
ROSALIE PUMA
ELLEN DELUCIE
SUSAN LIEBERT
MICHAEL VERDI
GUY PLOURDE
ALFRED & ANN ZIMMERMANN
CAROL KLOETZER
LORRAINE OLSEN
ELAINE & NICHOLAS DAGGER



Christmas Flowers in Honor/Memory of...



We remember and pray for **all** our loved ones -
those **living** and those **who have gone before us**.

JOSEPH FERRARA
DAVID FERRARA
PEDRO BANAGUAS
GUILLERMA BANAGUAS
JAMES & AGNES WHITE
JAMES H. WHITE
JOHN & ELIZABETH MENDOLIA
JOHN S. MENDOLIA
JOSEPH & LUCY LESCINSKI
SAM & VIRGINIA CHASINOV
FR. ED ZOGBY
FR. WALT DERYLO
RALPH ANGELO FANDETTA
MR. & MRS. A. FANDETTA
MR. & MRS. R. ZINZI
LINA FANDETTA
MARIANNE YAGER
MARY & GASPAR LOMBARDO
HAROLD YAGER
CHARLES & IRENE SIMS
LAWRENCE & DOROTHY ZELTMANN
MARCELLA SIMS
WILLIAM FLATERY
GEORGE HOLST
BEATRICE HOLST
DAVID MCKINLEY
ANTHONY DEVITO JR.
ANNA TESTA
DOMINICK TESTA
LUCILLE DEVITO
ANTHONY DEVITO SR.
JONATHAN MICHAEL RUOCCO
WILLIAM RYDER
ANNE MATTERA
EMMA EMERSON
STEPHEN MATTERA
JOHN MATTERA
LINDA MARINO
ROSE MARINO
MARIA EANNAcone
HERBERT EANNAcone
FRANK MARINO
JOHN EANNAcone
SONNY GARCIA
IRENE GARCIA
PAUL HARTMANN
GEORGE PARISI
DENNIS KELLY
MARGARET & JOHN DORNEY
MAUREEN & JOHN KELLY
COLIN DORNEY
JOAN & SAL DiBERNARDO
MARY & DONALD REID
MARILYN DIGNAN
FLORENCE CAMPANALE
VITO CAMPANALE
LILLIAN CAPUANO
MINNIE SCHMID
JOAN EDWARDS
MARY SOKEL

JOHN M. & JOHN J. SULLIVAN
JOAN O'CLARE
MUNCKTON FAMILY
HARTNAGLE FAMILY
MY FAMILY, FRIENDS & ENEMIES
ANNA & SABINO CERVONE
BERTHA TEPEDINO
NAN HOEY
GEORGE RAPLEE
GLENN RAPLEE
EVELYN MACCARO
WILLIAM MACCARO
ROSE & VINCENT CADOLINO
HELEN & FRANK SACCO
ARMAND CUTINELLA
CATHERINE & GEORGE SOTTUNG
DUMINUco FAMILY
RITA MONJELLO
JOHN MONJELLO
NATALIE DiFAZIO
SEBASTIAN DiFAZIO
JOSEPH MARCUCCI
PENZARECCHIA FAMILY
MARCUCCI FAMILY
TRAINA FAMILY
DOMINICK & ANN TRIFILETTI
FANNY & ANTHONY MAURO
BESSIE & SALVATORE TRIFILETTI
CLARENCE & BESSIE KENYON
MANUEL B. CAPELLA
FRANCES COOPER
JOHN COOPER
MARIE PUPPA
FRANK PUPPA
MARGARET LEPTICH
PETER LEPTICH
ANTHONY JOHNSON JR.
SUSAN EHR
GREGORY WIRTH
ESTELLE STERNBERG
JOHN STERNBERG
ELIZABETH SHEA
FILIBERTO FAMILY
GRISANZIO FAMILY
JOHN GIBBONS
MR. & MRS. JAMES ZANFINI
ANNA GIBBONS
ELIZABETH SHEA
MARGARET KASCsAK
WILLIAM F. SHEA
MICHAEL KASCsAK
JANE LUISE
CARLOS FAMILY
DILLON FAMILY
GRIFFIN FAMILY
STEVENSON FAMILY
DELIA FOLEY
BENVENUTO MONACO
PAUL COLLURA
FRANCES MONACO

THOMASSINA COLLURA
TARA LAPORTA
LANCE LAPORTA
GLORIA DANDREA
GAETANA GROBLUSKI
RONALD DANDREA
GEORGE GROBLUSKI
MR. & MRS. LEONARD SESSA
MR. & MRS. ROBERT S. BECK
JOSEPHINE PORCELLI
FRANCES MALAZDRA
CHARLES PORCELLI
EMMA FELDMAN
NATALIE MACARI
PETER MARSALA
JANET MARSALA
PAUL KRUK
S. KULESZA
CZ. WOLCZAK
K. KULESZA
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HERE COMES THE BRIDE

(Lots and Lots of Brides) *by Father Michael*

Marriage Statistics at Holy Cross:

- 2017: 18 (this was the highest number since 2009)
- 2018: 14
- 2019: 7 (an inexplicably low number for the year)
- 2020: 11
- 2021: 19
- 2022: 21 (additional arrangements are still being made)



Marriages at Holy Cross are on the increase. The pandemic caused many weddings to be rescheduled, but at this point we have caught up with all weddings that were impacted by the shutdown and related issues. I'm not sure what factors may be contributing to the increase.

There are two areas of parish life that are impacted by these higher numbers where we could use assistance. It's a happy problem. We love to have couples celebrate their marriages in the Church, but it means lots of helping hands are needed to make things run smoothly.

Pre-Cana: This is a required program for couples who wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage in the Church. Married Pre-Cana Team Couples present different aspects of married life, followed by some questions for reflection. The goal is that it might spark conversation for each engaged couple to come to a deeper appreciation of their relationship. Engaged couples consistently report that this process is both helpful and energizing in understanding their relationship with each other.

Within the past two years we have adopted a new model for the structure of our parish Pre-Cana program. The entire program takes place in the course of one weekend. The first gathering is on Friday evening. Saturday is an all day undertaking which concludes with everyone attending the Saturday evening Mass.

Wedding Rehearsals: This is a practical component that allows those involved in the wedding celebration to be comfortable with the procession and logistics of the ceremony or Mass. In addition to walking everyone through the rehearsal, it is most helpful to have someone present on the day of the wedding to make sure everything is in good order.

If you have been blessed with a good marriage, would you consider sharing your experience with engaged couples? If you like the practical aspect of a wedding day, would you consider assisting with the rehearsals?

Please contact Fr. Michael if you have any questions or would like to offer your help for either of these ministries.

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



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Christmas 2021

To the People of God of the Diocese of Rockville Centre:

On December 1, 2019, Our Holy Father Pope Francis issued *Admirabile Signum*, an Apostolic Letter *On the Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene*. It is a beautiful reflection that I draw on every Christmas season and one which I urge you to read and pray.¹

In it, the Holy Father reminds us that the simple act of arranging our Nativity set links us to the past, opens questions for the present, and orients the future. It is an act that has an existential impact.

Pope Francis says: “Setting up the Christmas creche in our homes helps us to relive the history of what took place in Bethlehem. Naturally, the Gospels remain our source for understanding and reflecting on the event. At the same time, its portrayal in the creche helps us to imagine the scene. It touches our hearts and makes us enter into salvation history as contemporaries of an event that is living and real in a broad gamut of historical and cultural contexts.”

The beautiful scene of parents and grandparents setting up creches together with children and grandchildren is a powerful multi-dimensional experience of catechesis – the teaching and passing on of our Catholic faith and our belief in the Incarnation of Jesus Christ to the next generation.

Parents and grandparents have that wisdom of teaching children and grandchildren how to assemble and situate the creche, but at the same time, they also have the catechetical and relational sensitivity to let children and grandchildren make choices about where the shepherds, the sheep, the three kings are to be placed.

Children are encouraged to place the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and the Prince of Peace – with their own hands into the center of the creche. How often children then enjoy, sometimes on their own and sometimes with brothers and sisters and family members, moving and interacting with the figurines. How often their biblical imaginations and souls are set on fire with God’s love as they play with their family Nativity sets.

The Holy Father continues: “I would like now to reflect on the various elements of the nativity scene in order to appreciate their deeper meaning. First, there is the background of a starry sky wrapped in the darkness and silence of night. We represent this not only out of fidelity to the Gospel accounts, but also for its symbolic value. We can think of all those times in our lives when we have experienced the darkness of night. Yet even then, God does not abandon us, but is there to answer our crucial questions about the

¹ https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20191201_admirabile-signum.html

meaning of life. Who am I? Where do I come from? Why was I born at this time in history? Why do I love? Why do I suffer? Why will I die? It was to answer these questions that God became man. His closeness brings light where there is darkness and shows the way to those dwelling in the shadow of suffering (cf. Luke 1:79).”

We can drift through life dodging and repressing these critical existential questions of life. We can live blindly and superficially.

Our Catholic belief in the unity of the Nativity and the Crucifixion, the Creche and the Cross, Bethlehem and Golgotha keeps our lives centered and focused on the things that really count in our short time on earth – the Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell) and a belief in the Eternal Joy of Heaven, our true home.

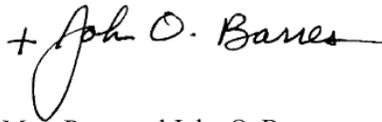
The Holy Father continues to press the existential questions: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Matthew 11:29), was born in poverty and led a simple life in order to teach us to recognize what is essential and to act accordingly. The nativity scene clearly teaches that we cannot let ourselves be fooled by wealth and fleeting promises of happiness. We see Herod’s palace in the background, closed and deaf to the tidings of joy. By being born in a manger, God himself launches the only true revolution that can give hope and dignity to the disinherited and the outcast: the revolution of love, the revolution of tenderness. From the manger, Jesus proclaims, in a meek yet powerful way, the need for sharing with the poor as the path to a more human and fraternal world in which no one is excluded or marginalized.”

May our prayer, silent contemplation and creative family catechesis of the Nativity scene help us to be instruments of a Gospel revolution of humility, charity, mercy, tenderness, and solidarity with the sick, the poor and the suffering.

May our commitment to “holiness and mission” bless our contemplative Synodal listening and our Eucharistic Revival and Evangelization.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ John O. Barres". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend John O. Barres
Bishop of Rockville Centre

Holy Cross Offers Anointing of the Sick

On the first Sunday of each month, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered after the 9:30 AM Mass. You are strongly encouraged to receive this Sacrament if you are having upcoming surgery, are dealing with a chronic or debilitating illness, are suffering from addiction, mental health issues or frailty. The Sacrament will be offered after the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, January 2nd.

DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE



A New Dawn for Catholic Education on Long Island

In January 2020, the *Marianists*, *Tomorrow's Hope Foundation*, and the *Department of Education* launched the Morning Star Initiative (MSI) to revitalize Catholic education on Long Island through a robustly Catholic culture, academic excellence, safe and supportive communities, and fiscally sustainable schools.

DONOR IMPACT TO DATE

To date, fellow Catholics and foundations have pledged more than \$3 million to Tomorrow's Hope Foundation for vital MSI programs and local Catholic school needs, including:

- Tuition assistance for underserved students
- New learning devices for thousands of students and teachers
- Internet connectivity for 300 school families
- The launch of iReady, an innovative web-based student benchmarking tool, among all the Catholic elementary schools
- Vital startup investments in two MSI pilot schools

WHY GIVE?

By supporting MSI, donors can invest in a sustainable and robust educational model for our children and for future generations. Please help make that a reality by making a gift today.

"I am very confident in Brother Tom and the Marianist Brothers who are leading this [MSI] effort, and I am hopeful that other individuals and organizations will support this cause to help ensure our Catholic schools have a bright future."

— MICHAEL PASCUCCI, MSI DONOR

GET INVOLVED

Contact kbill@thfny.com or call (516) 745-7640



Morning Star Initiative



To make a tax deductible donation, please scan the QR code below or complete this form and mail your check to *Tomorrow's Hope Foundation* with "MSI" written in the memo line.

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50 Charles Lindbergh Blvd, Suite 500
Uniondale, NY 11553



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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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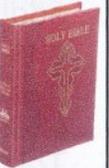
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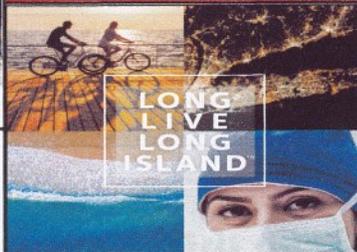
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