

# 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:

<b>Marietta Alvarado</b>	<b>Jo Barry</b>
<b>Kathy Barry</b>	<b>Patricia Becker</b>
<b>Barbara Bombace</b>	<b>Ann Callari</b>
<b>Eleanor Daly</b>	<b>Manuela Diaz</b>
<b>Ann Egan</b>	<b>Jim Emerson</b>
<b>Ralph Farino</b>	<b>Sienna Fricke</b>
<b>Jeanne Gallo</b>	<b>Bob Grieco</b>
<b>Debbie Jablinowski</b>	<b>Diane Jones</b>
<b>Roberta Lamb</b>	<b>Gerald Losquadro</b>
<b>Charlotte Lynch</b>	<b>Amanda Maddox</b>
<b>Viola Malek</b>	<b>Michael Maroney</b>
<b>Joseph McManus</b>	<b>Olivia Melia</b>
<b>Carole Porcelli</b>	<b>David Reichbach</b>
<b>Henrietta Renken</b>	<b>Liam Richards</b>
<b>Elaine Ruane</b>	<b>Joseph Santamaria</b>
<b>Barbara Sherry</b>	<b>Kyle Sweeney</b>
<b>Chase Turano</b>	<b>David Velkas</b>
<b>Doreen Velkas</b>	<b>Judy Viskupic</b>
<b>Peter Warns</b>	<b>Danny Youngworth</b>

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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>

February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

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

April 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>

May 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>

June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

# 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](mailto: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  
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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.<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap\\_20191201\\_admirabile-signum.html](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.

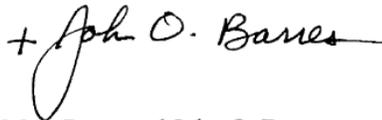
The Holy Father continues to press the existential questions: “The presence of the poor and the lowly in the nativity scene remind us that God became man for the sake of those who feel most in need of his love and who ask him to draw near to them. Jesus, ‘gentle and humble in heart’ (Matthew 11:29), 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

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## **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](mailto: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.

Tomorrow's Hope Foundation  
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

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Winter Windfall

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Town \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Winter Windfall

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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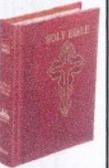
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