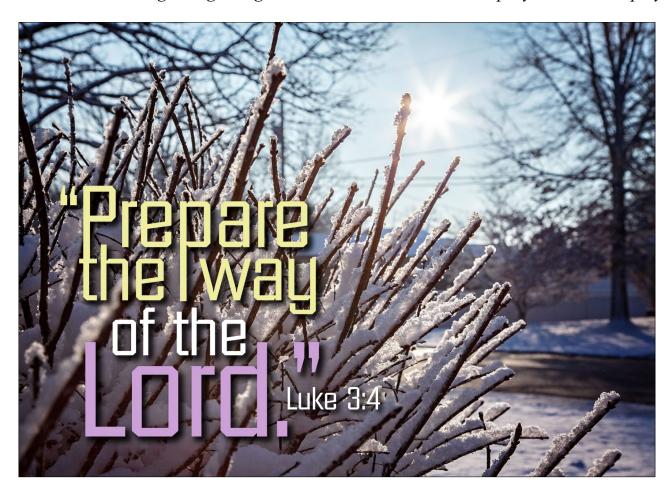
The Parish of the Holy Cross

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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!

2nd Sunday of Advent - December 5, 2021

We celebrate Eucharist

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM; Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM (The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are livestreamed on Facebook.)

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM (except Dec. 25th); Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass; Monday, Dec. 20th, after 9:00 AM Mass and 6:30-7:30 PM

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

631.265.2200 + Fax: 631.265.2229 + Email: parish@holycrossrc.org Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM (closed 12:15 - 1 PM)

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann Pastor, ext.115

Deacon Joseph Maffeo Pastoral Minister, ext. 124

Mrs. Judith Pickel Pastoral Associate, ext.116 Mrs. Michele Hahn Pastoral Associate, ext. 120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112 Director of Religious Ed.

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano Business Manager, ext.110

Mrs. Kelley Mowat, ext.113 Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mr. Brian Reich Director of Music Ministry Ms. Alexandra Roecklein

Youth Minister

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth Parish Secretary, ext.122 Dr. Vincent Mazurek Music Minister/Webmaster Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111 Religious Education Secretary (mpannone@holycrossrc.org)

Mrs. Barbara Shipman P/T Asst. to the Pastor

Mr. Roberto Maza Custodian

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra Weekend Sacristan

Remembering Our Sick

Please pray for those in our parish who are sick, their families and caregivers:

Jo Barry **Kathy Barry** Patricia Becker Barbara Bombace Ann Callari **Eleanor Daly** Manuela Diaz Ann Egan Ralph Farino Jim Emerson Sienna Fricke Jeanne Gallo Debbie Jablinowski **Bob Grieco 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 Barbara Sherry Joseph Santamaria **Kyle Sweeney Chase Turano David Velkas Doreen Velkas Peter Warns Judy Viskupic**

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 5th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Steven Debus (living) Tue. Henri-Robert Lamarque Al & Tess Giardiello Thu.

Tuesday, Immaculate Conception Vigil Mass

7:00 PM Mary Shipman

Wednesday, Immaculate Conception Mass

9:00 AM Jack Hough

Saturday, December 11th, 5PM Mass

Charles Inghilterra, Elisa Marotta-Fini, Giovanni Leboy, Mary Hall, Michael & Mikey LaVecchia

Sunday, December 12th, 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:00 AM Nicholas Matonti

9:30 AM People of the Parish

11:30 AM Anthony DeVito Jr., John O'Shea,

Elizabeth Shea, Fr. Ed Kealey, Vincenzo

Baratta, Biagio Chirafisi

Scripture Readings for December 12, 2021



- + Zephaniah 3:14-18
- + Philippians 4:4-7

+ Luke 3:10-18

LIGHTING THE SECOND CANDLE

by Father Michael

We hit an encouraging milestone two weeks ago. Our attendance at the weekend Masses was 710. We have not had that many people on a single weekend since Easter. This past weekend was just shy of 700, but the numbers are trending upward. While there are still some who are not yet able to return, it is encouraging to see many folks participating. In addition, we have also experienced a number of new families registering recently.

I went Christmas tree shopping last weekend. For years I have gotten my tree at a "mom and pop" nursery in Lindenhurst (Better Gro). In spite of doom-filled reports of a limited tree supply, they seemed to have as many trees as ever. However, it was more costly this year (as seems to be the case with most things). We need to be cautious about giving into the woeful predictions that we hear on a regular basis. We were told there were not going to be enough turkeys for Thanksgiving, but every store I went to had an overflowing freezer of birds. Fear can easily take hold of all of us, and it can make life feel unbalanced. Be it Christmas decorations or more serious issues, we need to be cautious about too readily living our lives in fear. There are real concerns that all of us face, but the more we can remain balanced and rational, the more we can address them in useful ways. Remember, the single message Jesus offered more than any other was "Be not afraid." Indeed, a timeless message.

This week Holy Cross will serve as an auxiliary distribution center for the North Pole. We will distribute the gift cards and gifts that were part of our Parish Outreach Christmas Program. Thank you to all of you who participated and supported this year's effort. In addition to the gifts themselves, you offer hope and encouragement to those who may be struggling. Thank you!

I have received several e-mails and letters regarding the proposed renovation of our sanctuary and chapel. So far everything I received is supportive of the idea, although there is some diversity with some of the details. It is my plan to address these suggestions and questions after the first of the year. There will be opportunities to look at the Church documents that address these matters, as well as have a continued discussion.

I was just made aware that at least one parishioner received an e-mail appearing to be sent from me asking the recipient to "help me with a task." Do not respond to such e-mails. It is a scam of some sort or another. Holy Cross will never solicit or ask for money or gift cards via e-mail, text, or robo-calls.

Have a prayerful Advent.

PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, December 11th/12th



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





Pray for Our Military

SPC(E-4) David Basler
Cpl Richard J. DeKanchuk, USMC
SA Anthony J. DeNicola
FC2 Lane Dyar
AS Brandon Ferrara
MIDN Jonathan A. Goohs Jr., USNA
WO Christopher Kaminsky
Sgt Michael J. Knipper, USMC
SSGT Ryan Mauldin
PFC Ryan McCoy, USMC
Lt Ryan Montvydas
Cpl Michael Palagonia, USMC

We thank the men and women who serve in our military for their service. We will continue to pray for them through 2021.

Please let us know if their service is finished, their title has changed, or you would like continued prayers through 2022. May God bless all who serve our nation. Pray for Peace!

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be offered after the 9:30 AM Mass this Sunday, December 5th.

The Parish Office is closed on Wednesday, December 8th, for the Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day.

Mass times are Tuesday, Dec. 7th, at 7 PM and Wednesday, Dec. 8th, at 9 AM.



Holy Cross welcomes these children Baptized in November

Stephen John Arena
Travis John Chambers
Cameron Thomas Gould
Addison Grace Kallman
Nicholas Joseph Lupo
Leonardo James Magaddino
Claire Frances Rockfeld
Jack Thomas Romuno
Gianna Marie Saluzzi
Bradley James Wirth



We pray for the following parishioners whose funerals were celebrated at Holy Cross in November:

Mary Conlín John P. Onofrío Víncent Pelliccío Frank J. Rossí Frances C. Tummínía

May they rest in peace, and may their loved ones be consoled.

PARISH NEWS

Holiday Wreath Sale



The Knights of Columbus are selling pre-decorated wreaths and log centerpieces after all the Masses this weekend. Wreaths and logs are priced at \$25 each.



Youth Ministry

Join us for our next Youth Night this Sunday, December 5th, from 6 to 8PM! All new 9th graders who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation this October are invited to attend. For more information, contact our Youth Minister, Allie Roecklein, at youthgroup@holycrossrc.org.



Special Collection

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

Weekly Calendar

Saturday, December 4th 3:45 - 4:45 PM

• HOLY HOUR Worship Area

WREATH SALE 5PM Mass Atrium
 ANGEL GIFTS DUE Atrium

Sunday, December 5th
 WREATH SALE
 ANGEL GIFTS DUE
 All Masses
 Atrium

• ANOINTING After 9:30 Mass Worship Area

YOUTH NIGHT 6-8PM Atrium

Monday, December 6th 4 - 6 PM
• GREATER NEEDS Atrium

• KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 7PM Fr. Joe Room

Tuesday, December 7th 10 AM

• IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room

• IMMAC. CONCEPT. VIGIL 7PM Worship Area

Wednesday, December 8th 9 AM Mass
• IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Worship Area
(The Parish Office is closed for the Holy Day.)

Sunday, December 12th After 9:30 Mass

• BAPTISM GATHERING Fr. Joe Room

• BAPTISMS 1PM Worship Area

• YOUTH NIGHT 6-8PM Atrium



<u>Christmas Mass Intentions</u> - In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Christmas Masses, there are cards in the atrium on which to write your special intentions. These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Christmas Masses.

PARISH OUTREACH

A Very Important Reminder

Today, December 5th, is the last day to return your Angel gift cards or gifts. Please be sure all Angel items are here by the end of the 11:30 Mass.

This afternoon, our Outreach Committee will be sorting and allocating the gifts cards for our families so that they have time to shop. The agencies will also be picking up their gift items this week.



We hope you will continue to keep our struggling neighbors in your prayers. Thank you for remembering them during this season of joy, hope and peace.

Reminder: The Angel tags are coded as follows:

BLUE: Families of the Holy Cross Outreach Program

RED: Our friends at Olsen's Rest Home

PURPLE: Talbot House, the Catholic Charities crisis center for those

struggling with addiction

GREEN: Toys for children in the Brentwood area serviced by Pronto

ORANGE: Mercy Haven, an organization that provides community

residence housing for those living with mental illness

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PINK: Supermarket cards to enable a family to have a special meal

Press 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

Thank You!

Our Thanksgiving Basket Program was, once again, a huge success. The outpouring of support for this Holy Cross favorite was tremendous. Thirty-eight beautiful baskets, filled with all the items needed for a Thanksgiving meal, were distributed to our grateful Outreach families.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped collect, organize, and distribute the baskets. You all made this day fun and helped to make everything run smoothly. Thank you to all those who shopped and created the baskets. Each basket was unique and overflowing with Thanksgiving goodies. Our Outreach families were thrilled to receive such beautiful gifts.

A special thank you to all those who signed up to create a basket but did not get the chance. The response to sign up was so great that we could not accommodate everyone. Next year we hope to get the chance to assign you a basket. This just highlights what I have come to know about the family of Holy Cross. It is a loving and giving community that lives the Gospel! I must extend a big thank you to our coordinators Susan Lampach, JoEllen May-Wadsworth, and Donna Akuntius for all their work in organizing volunteers, basket assignments, and running a wonderful event. Thank you!!





Another Outreach Thank You!



Thank you to Brendan Tesone from Boy Scout Troop 349 for organizing a Food Drive for the Outreach pantry. Brendan collected four large boxes of food which included personal hygiene items for those who access the pantry. We are grateful for all Brendan's hard work to keep our shelves full. Thank you Brendan!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On November 23rd, our Level 1 students met to create their own Advent wreaths, with the older students in the program assisting. They learned the meaning of Advent as they prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas.



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 <u>Home Page is the "Heart" of the Website</u> and contains much information and "links" to other sources of information. It is comprised of <u>Six Basic Sections</u>: [1] <u>General Parish Information</u>, [2] the "<u>Fast-Track" Section</u> to speed you to particular areas of the Website by asking you Questions, [3] "<u>Church News</u>," [4] "<u>What's Happening</u>" in the Parish, [5] "<u>Parish & Seasonal Upcoming Events</u>" of the Parish & [6] "<u>Schedules</u>" 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. (<u>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.</u>

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!

Name	Winter Windfall	Winter Windfall Name
Address		Address
Town		Town
Phone _		Phone
	Winter Windfall	Winter Windfall
Name		Name
Address		Address
Town		Town
1 O W 11		

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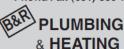
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