The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 + www.holycrossrc.org + www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset

LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!

Vision Statement: Holy Cross is a vibrant Catholic community striving to maintain a spirit of welcome to all, serving as a guiding beacon to nourish and sustain prayer, work and play.



Come and pray with us!

5th Sunday of Lent - March 17, 2024

We celebrate Eucharist

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

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM; Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass

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

Mrs. Judith Pickel

Pastoral Associate, ext.116

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

Deacon Joseph Maffeo Pastoral Minister, ext.124

Mrs. Michele Hall

Pastoral Associate, ext.120

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

Mr. Brian Reich Director of Music Ministry

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth Parish Secretary, ext.122

Parish Secretary, ext.122

Ms. Karina D'Angelo Business Manager, ext.110 Dr. Vincent Mazurek Music Minister/Webmaster

Mr. Roberto Maza Custodian Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111 Religious Education Secretary (mpannone@holycrossrc.org)

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra Weekend Sacristan

Remembering Our Sick

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

Bob Alderdice Alejandro Astegiano

Kathy Barry
Cole Brennan
Judy Carlson
Manuela Diaz
Vincent Esposito
Yolanda Fattarusso

Linda Heinrichs
Kristen Kennedy
Carol Leahy
Charlotta Lynab

Charlotte Lynch
Jeanne Marie Malley
Loretto Narducci
Liam Richards
Casey Schultz
Dolores Serri
Celeste Sichenze
Grace Van Epps

Theresa Arzillo

Jo Barry

Barbara Bombace

Ann Callari Jason DeLuca Ann Egan Ralph Farino Sienna Fricke

Debbie Jablinowski

Roberta Lamb Gerald Losquadro

Viola Malek Olivia Melia Carina Ranieri Elaine Ruane Kathy Schwinn Barbara Sherry Bill Tanner

Peter Warns

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Week of Sunday, March 17, 9AM Masses

Mon. Sarah BreslawskiTue. Phil DeNobregaWed. Anthony DeVito Jr.Thu. Patricia Becker

Saturday, March 23, 5PM Mass

Vito Ligabo, Daniel Paciello, Theresa Tonry, Norma Altieri

Sunday, March 24, Palm Sunday

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto **9:30 AM** People of the Parish

11:30 AM Damien Pickel, Frank Perrino, Alec Ross, Michele Perrino, Kerri Pavan

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.

FIGHT MY BATTLES/SURROUNDED-Part 5

by Father Michael

There are moments when the ministry of the parish takes on enormous challenges. This week was one of those occasions. As many of you may have heard, a young woman of only 16, Valerie Kratochvil, passed away suddenly last week. Her funeral was on Monday. Her mother, father, and twin sister were all devastated by her passing. Many of her classmates from Smithtown East attended the funeral. Almost 400 people filled the church. It seems like an impossible mission when tremendous pain is brought to the door. There is a desperate hope that human insight may shed light into darkness. No words can make sense of such a painful loss. What we can offer is to identify the deepest mystery of our faith, the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising. We attempt to make the connection of our own journey to that of our Lord. We dare to bridge a great chasm.

One moment that helped to transform the pain of that gathering was when the Smithtown East Chamber Choir offered a Communion meditation song. Angelic voices resonated throughout our Worship Area that helped to move us beyond the pain we were trying to process in our heads. It allowed us a moment of surrendering to prayer in our hearts. That song was a tremendous gift offered to this community by young people who were simply using the gift of their voices that God gave them. It was a rich blessing.

The invitation to Fight our Battles can be more than just a catch phrase. It can open us to the depth and wonder of the Paschal Mystery. There are times when words fail, but yet there is something tangible to be experienced. The presence of God works in amazing ways. It is a humbling experience when we come face to face with that reality.

On the other end of the spectrum, we have three weddings this weekend. I can't remember the last time we had three weddings in one weekend, and especially during Lent. It's another moment when people come to the church to allow the message of faith to be part of defining moments of life. It is a blessing to be able to share in these moments, both the joyful and the sorrowful.

I will not be here for the 11:30 Mass this week. I will be putting on my hat as Dean and visiting St. Patrick's Parish in Smithtown. One of the duties of the Dean is to oversee the installation of a new pastor. Msgr. Brian McNamara took over as Pastor in November, and he is now being formally installed. This seems like a most appropriate celebration on March 17 for St. Patrick's parish. Enjoy your corned beef and cabbage today.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 17th

• CHILDREN'S LITURGY

• BAPTISMS

11:30 Mass

Fr. Joe Room

Worship Area

Monday, March 18th 6 PM
• LEVEL 6 SEDER Atrium

• VBS MEETING 7PM Fr. Joe Room

• TENEBRAE REHEARSAL 7:30PM Worship Area

Tuesday, March 19th 10 AM

• IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room

• LEVEL 6 SEDER 6PM Atrium

• MOMS' GROUP 7PM Fr. Joe Room

Wednesday, March 20th 7 PM

• LENTEN PRAYER Worship Area

Thursday, March 21st 7 PM

• LEV. 2 PARENT/STUDENT MTG Worship Area

Scripture Readings for March 24, 2024



- + Isaiah 50:4-7
- + Philippians 2:6-11
- + Mark 14:1-15:47

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, March 23rd/24th



5:00 PM Fr. Michael 8:00 AM Fr. Michael

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



Banns of Marriage Third Time

Rachel Mangiapane & Nick Piampiano

Special Collection

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

An Evening for AU Wednesday, March 20, @ 7:00PM

Parishioner Cristian Murphy will lead this evening which celebrates the gift and wonder of

Mercy

and how it can bring us to peace and new life.

This will be an evening of visual images and stories that unite us in the

Paschal Mystery of Christ's dying and rising.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Monday, March 25, 2024: 7:30 PM (LS)



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Wednesdays in Lent: after 9:00 AM Mass Saturdays in Lent: 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM Monday, March 25: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM & 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Good Friday, March 29: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM Holy Saturday, March 30: 9:00 AM - 9:30 AM



PALM SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2024 Saturday 3/23/24: 5:00 PM Mass Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM (LS)

HOLY THURSDAY MARCH 28, 2024

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 8:00 PM (LS)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until **10:00 PM**

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 29, 2024
Children's Service - 12:00 Noon (LS)
Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 3:00 PM (LS)



HOLY SATURDAY MARCH 30, 2024

Solemn Easter Vigil - 8:00 PM (LS)

No Afternoon Confessions or 5:00 pm Mass

on Holy Saturday

EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 31, 2024 Masses: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM (LS)

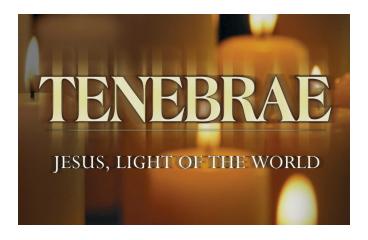
(LS) = Also Live Streamed

PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK

Tenebrae

Is God inviting you?

Tenebrae is a candlelight prayer service, held in anticipation of our holiest week. During Tenebrae (which means darkness), the candles are gradually dimmed as we experience the Passion of Jesus Christ through Scripture readings, meditations, and beautiful music.



We encourage all parishioners to join us for **Tenebrae** on **Monday, March 25th,** at **7:30 PM** as we prepare our hearts and minds for the great gift of **Holy Week**.



LITURGY BYTES

Jesus Present in the Assembly

First of all, those gathered together for Mass are known as the assembly, the Church family that shows us the face of Jesus Christ. Our Church family, with all of its diversity, shows us the face of Christ.



The baby crying during the homily, the elderly man moving slowly with his walker in procession to receive Communion, the teenager slumped over in the rear pew, the mother with three young children moving constantly, and the father rocking a sleeping infant are all part of the Body of Christ as Jesus is present within all.

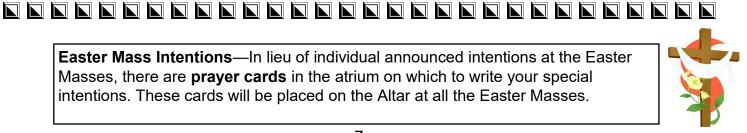
When we are joined at Mass to pray and sing, as per the gift of our Baptisms, it is something greater than just ourselves alone. We collectively make up the Body of Christ, resurrected, seated at God's right hand, and constantly present whenever we gather in □ Church to give God praise. This is the beauty of the Sacraments — that we can see and hear and touch God in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the Church.

One of the expectations of the Church is that we show reverence to Christ at all times. During Mass, the Church gives reverence to Christ through the use of incense and gestures and bodily postures. We bow to the altar or genuflect to the tabernacle, the dwelling place for the consecrated Body of Christ. We even extend our hand as a gesture of Christ's peace before receiving Holy Communion as another opportunity to show reverence for our Lord present in our brothers and sisters in the assembly and to love one another as ourselves.

This week let us ask God for the grace to see Jesus in one another and to show each other true reverence — something really good to do for Lent!

Have a prayerful, peaceful, and blessed week ahead! ~~ Michele Hall

Easter Mass Intentions—In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Easter Masses, there are **prayer cards** in the atrium on which to write your special intentions. These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Easter Masses.



UPCOMING TRAINING

Live out your Baptismal Vocation and be a Minister of Holy Communion



How to begin – If you would like to assist as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist for the parish, meet with Fr. Michael first. This is true for whether you wish to serve at the weekend Masses or bring Communion to the homebound. This will also be the way that your name will be sent to the Bishop and how you will be registered for the training sessions.

Part A training for EMs – For those who wish to distribute at weekend Masses and those wanting to serve the homebound

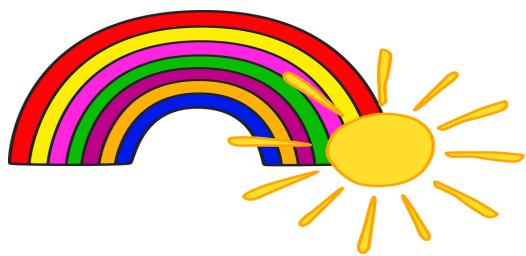
Part B training for Homebound – This must be attended in addition to part A for those wishing to be a homebound EM.

Training sessions for Eucharistic Ministers will take place as follows:

- Part A EM training Sat., April 27th, at Our Lady of Loretto in Hempstead, 9 AM to 1 PM
- Part A Tues., April 16th, at St. Elizabeth's in Melville, 7 PM to 10 PM
- Part A Sat., April 27th, at Immaculate Conception in Westhampton Beach, 9 AM to 12 PM
- Part A Tues., May 21st, at St. Christopher's in Baldwin, 7 PM to 10 PM

- **Part B** EM homebound training Sat., April 27th, at Immaculate Conception in Westhampton Beach, 1 PM to 4 PM
- Part B Tues., May 14th, at St. Elizabeth's in Melville, 7 PM to 10 PM
- **Part B** Tues., June 4th, at St. Christopher's in Baldwin, 7 PM to 10 PM

PARISH OUTREACH



The Parish of the Holy Cross Bereavement Support Group

Losing a loved one is painful for anyone. How we cope is as unique as our fingerprints. It can be experienced as losing the ability to see the beautiful colors in a rainbow. Our world seems so grey.

Making the time to listen to others dealing with grief enables us to begin to see the colors of life once again. This also allows us to share our stories and gain ways to move forward. Come join us as we work together and share this journey.

This Bereavement Group is for anyone dealing with grief.

All are welcome

We will meet for six consecutive Wednesdays beginning April 3rd through May 8th from 1:30 to 3:30 in the Father Joe Room.

If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please call Outreach at **631-265-2200**.

All who will be attending will be asked to complete a registration form.

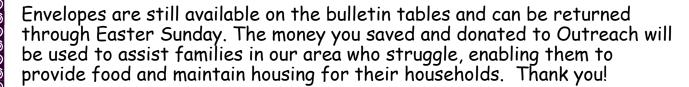
"Come to me, all who are weary and find life burdensome and I will refresh you." Matt: 11:28

PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply

We wish to thank our parishioners for their support so far of the Eat Simply program. Your generosity and spirit of prayerful sacrifice inspire us. We offer several more ideas for your Lenten Journey:

- Brown bag your lunch
- Enjoy a soup and grilled cheese sandwich supper Order from the "dollar" menu
- Skip your cocktail or dessert at dinner
- Use tap water instead of bottles of water (better for the environment too)
- Buy store brands instead of name brand items





Thank you to all who have volunteered for one of our many programs or have given time and offered a helping hand for Outreach projects. I thank you for sharing your time and talent with those we serve in our community. Your help and support, both physically and monetarily, have allowed Outreach to flourish and grow and helped to fulfill our Baptismal promise.

We invite all those who have served in the past along with those who would like to share their gifts to review volunteer opportunities in Outreach for the upcoming year and beyond.

Our special projects section is a short commitment for that project's duration. Our ongoing **opportunities** are available throughout the year and are a weekly or monthly commitment. The need varies, depending on the time of year, but your help is important and makes Outreach possible.

Our goal in Outreach is to have an updated directory of volunteers who can be called upon for help depending on what they signed up for. If you think you would be interested, please complete the form on the next page, and you will be contacted. If you have volunteered in the past, please fill out the form anyway. We are UPDATING our files and need to have your information even if you have helped in Outreach before. Continued on next page

PARISH OUTREACH

If you have any questions, please call the Outreach Office. **Please keep in mind that all volunteers need to be Virtus certified. Outreach can answer any questions about Virtus and how to become certified. **

As you contemplate your decision, please keep in mind that Outreach volunteers possess a strong awareness of confidentiality, a nonjudgmental spirit, a compassionate heart, and a belief that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity. If this sounds like you, please review the list below to see where your interest lies. If ready to commit, please complete the form below and return it to Outreach. Thank you!

Kelley

On-going Weekly/Monthly Commitments

- Food Pantry Team
- Friendly Calls
- Minor Maintenance/Yard Work
- Olsen's Rest Home
- EM to Homebound

Special Projects-Once a Year Commitment

- Advent Visit to Homebound
- Blood Drive
- Christmas Angel Program
- Easter Flowers to Homebound
- School Supplies
- Thanksgiving Basket Program
- Garden Volunteers
- Blessing Bags
- Dress a Girl
- Adopt a Grandparent
- Cook a Meal



For a detailed description of each Volunteer opportunity, please find details on the website or call Outreach. Please return the completed form to the Outreach office. Thank you!

The Diocese of Rockville Centre

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASSES

Honoring Couples Married Fifty Years

The Diocese of Rockville Centre would like to honor those couples who celebrated Fifty Years of Marriage in 2024 by inviting them to attend one of the Masses below for a special blessing.

Sunday, April 21, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

The Cathedral of St. Agnes, Rockville Centre Celebrant: Most Reverend Andrzej Zglejszewski Registration must be received by Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Sunday, May 5, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Patchogue Celebrant: Most Reverend Robert J. Coyle Registration must be received by Tuesday, April 30, 2024

Register online at drvc-faith.org

For questions, please contact Lisette Robustelli, Associate Director at (516)678-5800 ext. 200 or via email at Irobustelli@drvc.org





Because no marriage is beyond hope...

- · Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- · Do you feel hurt and angry?
- · Does talking make it worse?
- · Thought of leaving or divorce?
- · Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

Retrouvaille can help.

Our Next Weekend is
April 26-28, 2024
at The Immaculate Conception
Seminary, Huntington

To register or for more information: 1-800-470-2230 HelpOurMarriage.org

Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges

It is not counseling and you will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

Retrouvaille is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage.

Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



Revitalizing our Faith — Renewed by the Cucharist



"As Christians, we do not only receive a vocation individually; we are also called together. We are like the tiles of a mosaic."

Pope Francis

Your donation to the Catholic Ministries Appeal supports vocations in our diocese.

Ordained in 2023, Fr. Steven McClernon spoke to us about what his goals are as a priest in our Diocese and how your support has helped him to accomplish this!

"This year's CMA theme, Revitalizing our Faith -- Renewed by the Eucharist, relates to my vocation as it was fostered through Eucharistic Adoration. I see the People of God revitalized and renewed in their faith when I celebrate Mass. I see how people really love receiving the Eucharist. During Covid when we were separated from receiving the Eucharist, it was a difficult time for many. Now seeing the people back to church, and receiving the Eucharist, I am renewed in my faith, and I know God's people are revitalized by the true presence of God in the Eucharist.



The CMA has been greatly influential in my life. One of the ministries it supports is the Holy Hours for Vocations at the Seminary. We gather young people from across the Island to hold Eucharistic Adoration. During my college years, this experience was a big part of my faith and my decision to become a priest. The Catholic Ministries Appeal has helped foster my vocation to the priesthood."

Please make check payable to the Catholic Ministr	ries Appeal
Name:	Parish: Parish of the Holy Cross—176
Address:	
City, State and Zip Code:	
Telephone number: Home	Cell:
Signature:	
To make a donation, you can also visit h	https://www.drvc.org/CMA/or call us at 516-678-580

Please pick up a brochure on the bulletin table in the Atrium. Thank you!

TAKE A CHANCE!

Spring Cash Fling

For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine, and this fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish. At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing, so we will continue as we have done for the past few years with our quarterly drawing.

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through March, April and May.
- Drawing will be held May 30th.

This is the pay scale which will be offered:

- * 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.
- 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!

Spring Cash Fling Name Address Town Phone	Spring Cash Fling Name Address Town Phone
Spring Cash Fling	Spring Cash Fling
Name	Name
Address	Address
Town	Town

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