

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.*



**“TRULY
THIS MAN
WAS THE
SON OF
GOD!”**

Mark 15:39

Come and pray with us!

Palm Sunday - March 24, 2024

We celebrate Eucharist

Mon.-Thu. 9AM (except Holy Thu.); Sat. 5PM (except Holy Sat.); Sun. 8AM, 9:30AM & 11:30AM
The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are livestreamed on Facebook.

We celebrate Reconciliation

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM (except Holy Sat.); 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 Hall
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

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

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

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister/Webmaster

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

Ms. Karina D'Angelo
Business Manager, ext.110

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:

Bob Alderdice	Theresa Arzillo
Alejandro Astegiano	Jo Barry
Kathy Barry	Barbara Bombace
Cole Brennan	Ann Callari
Judy Carlson	Jason DeLuca
Manuela Diaz	Ann Egan
Vincent Esposito	Ralph Farino
Yolanda Fattarusso	Sienna Fricke
Linda Heinrichs	Debbie Jablinowski
Kristen Kennedy	Roberta Lamb
Carol Leahy	Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch	Viola Malek
Jeanne Marie Malley	Olivia Melia
Loretto Narducci	Carina Ranieri
Liam Richards	Elaine Ruane
Casey Schultz	Kathy Schwinn
Dolores Serri	Barbara Sherry
Celeste Sichenze	Bill Tanner
Grace Van Epps	Peter Warns

Upcoming Mass Intentions

Week of Sunday, March 24, 9AM Masses

Mon. Josephine O'Shea

Tue. Sarah Breslawski

Wed. Terry Hall

(No morning Mass on Thursday)

Holy Thursday, March 28, 8PM Mass

People of the Parish

Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 30, 8PM Mass

All Easter Prayer Card Intentions

Easter Sunday, March 31, 8AM, 9:30 & 11:30 Masses

All Easter Prayer Card Intentions



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 - Palm Sunday

by Father Michael

The season of Lent is almost completed, and we head into our most solemn days. Liturgically, the Church tries to draw us as deeply as possible into the mystery of the Lord's suffering, death, and resurrection. If we feel that our sacrifices or commitments of Lent were not as prayerful or meaningful as we hoped, that does not disqualify us to enter into the depth of these days. Allow this to be a holy week for you. Continue to bring your "battles" to the Lord to be transformed by his mercy and new life.

In the course of this week, we hear the Passion story told twice, once on Palm Sunday, and again on Good Friday. This is a critical part of Jesus' story. It is depicted in all four gospels. We cannot underestimate the courage, trust and surrender that Jesus demonstrated on the road to Calvary. But it is not just a historical account of what happened to Jesus. It is also an opportunity for us to make a connection between our own suffering and brokenness and that of our Lord. It is not just what one man did; it is the pattern of what all people will do.

Monday of Holy Week in our Diocese has become known as "Confession Monday." Confessions are heard in every church in the Diocese for an extended period of time. It is an opportunity for people to experience God's gift of forgiveness. It is never easy to name the shadow and sin of our lives. When we avail ourselves to this sacrament, we open ourselves to that healing presence of Christ where we need it the most.

When we look at the cross of Jesus, or when we embrace our own sinfulness, we place ourselves on the front line of the battles of our lives. That is never an easy thing to do, but it is an essential part of the Paschal Mystery. But remember, our Lenten theme was not only "fighting battles," it was also about being surrounded. That element is also an integral part of this holy week. We are surrounded by those who share the journey of this life. And we are also surrounded by the very presence of our God.

The celebration of Holy Thursday reminds us of this gift of holy presence. There is a dramatic and humbling element to the evening liturgy that only happens once a year when feet are washed. It is a beautiful gesture of how we are to minister to one another and also how we are to receive from one another. The evening culminates in the celebration of the Last Supper in which the Eucharist was first shared with the disciples. This is a gift that continues to have tremendous power, the very presence of the Lord in the bread and wine. In many ways, this week is a whirlwind. All who we are and all that we believe come together in a profound way. Allow this mystery and gift of the cross to unfold in your hearts.

Join us for Tenebrae on Monday at 7:30PM. Mark your calendar for our Parish Mission, April 21-23, with Fr. Albert Haase, OFM.

The Parish Office is closed on Good Friday, March 29th.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Weekly Calendar

Monday, March 25th 3-5PM & 5:30-7:30PM

- CONFESSION Chapel
- TENEBRAE 7:30PM Worship Area

Tuesday, March 26th 10 AM

- IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room
- KIDS' GOOD FRI. REHEARS. 5PM Worship Area
- RCIA 7PM FJ Rm., Wor. Ar.

Thursday, March 28th 8 PM

- MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER Worship Area
(No morning Mass; Adoration following Mass until 10 PM)

Friday, March 29th 9 - 9:30 AM

- CONFESSION Chapel
- CHILDREN'S SERVICE 12PM Worship Area
- LORD'S PASSION 3PM Worship Area
(The Parish Office is closed on Good Friday.)

Saturday, March 30th 9 - 9:30 AM

- CONFESSION Chapel
- EASTER VIGIL 8PM Worship Area
(No 5PM Mass today & no afternoon confession)

Sunday, March 31st 8,9:30 & 11:30 AM

- EASTER MASSES Worship Area

Scripture Readings for March 31, 2024



- + Acts 10:34, 37-43
- + Colossians 3:1-4
- + John 20:1-9

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, March 30th/31st



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



Banns of Marriage *First Time*

Ashley Volz & Sal Abbamonte

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.



HOLY WEEK NEWS

Holy Week for Children



During the holiest week of the Church year, we remember what Jesus did for us on Good Friday. Children and their families are invited to commemorate this important day at a special prayer service, designed especially for our youngest parishioners.

Please join us at Holy Cross for our *Children's Good Friday Prayer Service, March 29, at 12:00 Noon.*

*Come, bring your family, bring a friend.
Let this holy day deepen your appreciation of God's great love for us!*

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

TENEBRAE SERVICE

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



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession)

Saturday, March 23: 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM

Monday, March 25: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM & 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Wednesday, March 27: after 9:00 AM Mass

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

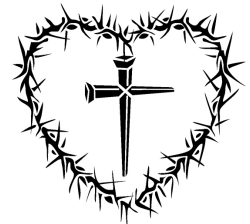
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 8:00 PM (LS)

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)

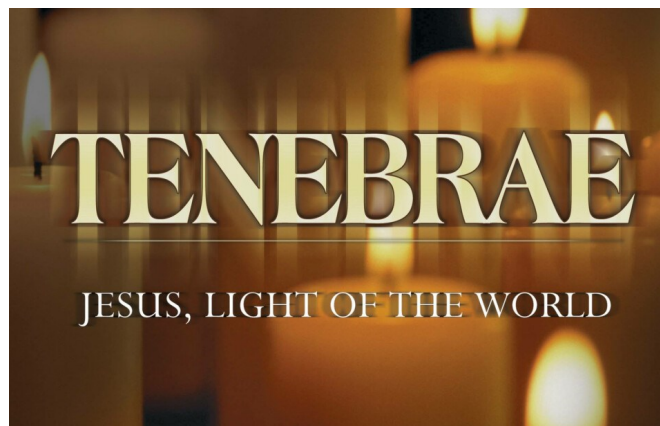
(LS) = Also Live Streamed

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

Holy Week 2024



Holy Week is the most significant week for Catholics spanning from Palm Sunday to Holy Saturday, marking the final days before we celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of Our Lord. During this sacred period, Catholics pray and reflect on the profound journey of Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, and victory over death.

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. We receive blessed palms which symbolize the crowd that welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. At Mass on Palm Sunday, the entire account of the Passion is read. The palms that we receive are usually displayed in our homes, some people weaving them into a cross.

During Holy Week, the Diocese celebrates the Chrism Mass prior to or on Holy Thursday. During the Chrism Mass, the Bishop blesses the oils used for the Sacraments. At this Mass, the renewal of priestly promises also takes place.

Holy Thursday begins the first day of the Triduum, the most sacred days of our Faith as Catholics. It begins with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, commemorating the Last Supper celebrated by Jesus and his disciples on the Jewish holiday of Passover. During this Mass, the priest will wash the feet of some members of the parish as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper. It is during the Last Supper that Jesus taught his disciples that the Eucharist is truly His Body and Blood. Jesus taught them the importance of the Eucharist and commanded that they do this in memory of Him. Following the Mass of the Lord's Supper, parishes have Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Good Friday commemorates the day Jesus died and saved us from our sins. His death and resurrection on Easter are the most important events of our Faith, and that is why it is called "good." Mass is not celebrated on this day. It is a day of solemn prayer with veneration of the cross and the reading of the Passion.

In the next Liturgy Bytes, we will reflect on Holy Saturday and the great feast of Easter! In the meantime, try to attend at least one of the Holy Week services. You will be glad you did!!

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

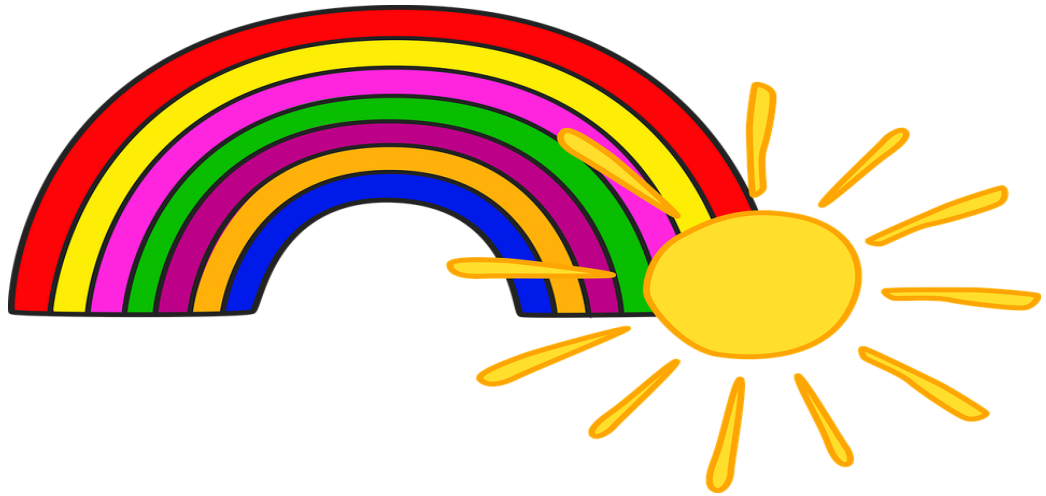
PARISH OUTREACH

Eat Simply

Next Sunday is the beautiful celebration of Easter. Our Lenten journey is coming to an end as we anticipate the joy of Christ's Resurrection! If you haven't already done so, we ask that you return your "Eat Simply" envelopes by next weekend. On behalf of the hungry we serve each day, we thank you for participating in this special Lenten activity. Your prayerful sacrifices will help feed our brothers and sisters in Christ.



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

Long Island Cares Thanks You 2024



Many thanks to our parishioners who contributed to our Lenten food drive for *Long Island Cares*.

Ten boxes of food and personal hygiene items (916 pounds) were collected and will be distributed across Long Island to help eliminate hunger among our neighbors. Thank you again for your generosity and for reaching out beyond our community to help those who are struggling.

Outreach Volunteer Renewal

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!

Outreach Volunteer Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Yes, I would like to be a volunteer for the following Outreach program(s):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

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

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Spring Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____



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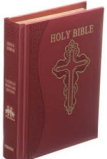
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