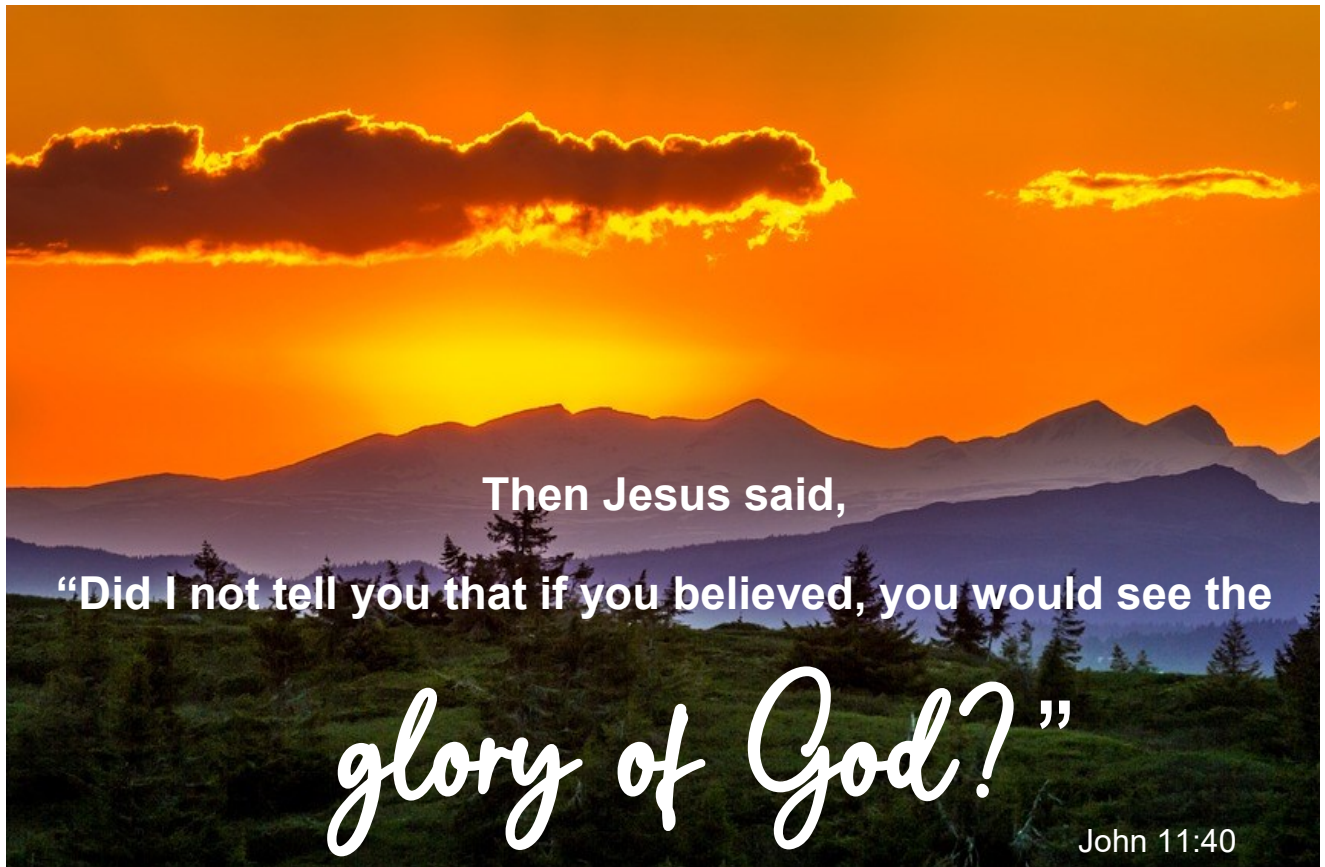


The Parish of the Holy Cross

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!

Fifth Sunday of Lent - March 26, 2023

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

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
Bookkeeper, 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

Jo Barry

Kathy Barry

Barbara Bombace

Cole Brennan

Dan Bryan

Ann Callari

Judy Carlson

Pattie Daly-Matonti

Jason DeLuca

Manuela Diaz

Ann Egan

Ralph Farino

Sienna Fricke

Linda Heinrichs

Debbie Jablinowski

Kristen Kennedy

Roberta Lamb

Dora Libretti

Gerald Losquadro

Charlotte Lynch

Viola Malek

Erin & baby Malley

Jeanne Marie Malley

Olivia Melia

Loretto Narducci

Cornelia Polik

Mary Polik-Gunther

Carina Ranieri

Liam Richards

Elaine Ruane

Barbara Sherry

Celeste Sichenze

Kyle Sweeney

Bill Tanner

Peter Warns

Danny Youngworth

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of Sunday, March 26th, 9AM Masses

Mon. Jean Everts

Tue. Gloria Hall

Wed. Maureen O'Malley (living)

Thu. Damien Pickel



Saturday, April 1st, 5PM Mass

Jim Emerson, Gena Ryan, Kathleen Reed, Maureen Jost, Irene & Carmine Persiani

Sunday, April 2nd, Palm Sunday

8:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM John Longobardi

11:30 AM Debra Yarincik, Edward Rang, Bobby Alderdice, Pete Hatzigeorgiou, Paul Falcone

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.

THE FINAL DAYS OF LENT

by Fr. Michael

This past week was a busy and blessed one at Holy Cross. We are grateful to Mr. Jim Ryan who spent last weekend and three nights with us leading us in a Lenten Mission. The turnout was excellent, averaging 200 people each night. It was an opportunity for us to reflect upon our own attitudes and responses to life. It is too easy to allow our emotions and distractions to get in the way of experiencing the beautiful things of life as well as God's presence. Sometimes simple reminders can ground us and give us a different perspective that is life-giving and joyful. Thank you for all who were part of these evenings.

Jim Ryan stayed with me at the house. In the course of the week he was asking me about different activities that were happening, and he commented how active and engaged our parish community is. He witnessed the Special Needs children gathering for their regular Monday afternoon classes. He saw that we not only had a funeral on Tuesday, but family and friends gathered in our atrium prior to the Mass to spend time with each other. He commented on the Long Island Cares food boxes that were quickly filling with donations. He heard about our gathering to plan the celebrations of Holy Week. Had he stayed until Thursday, he would have seen our choir gathering once again for practice (another piece of pre-Covid life returns). These were a few of the items that filled our calendar this week.

When we are immersed in the routine and business of our lives, we don't always appreciate all that is accomplished. It can be helpful to have an outside set of eyes observing and commenting on the activities that are seen. Holy Cross is blessed that this is the place where good and holy things unfold in the lives of so many people. This good work comes about through many people who give of their time and talent to assist us. It comes about through the generosity of many parishioners who faithfully support us. For many of us, this parish is a spiritual anchor that helps keep the balance of our lives in order. We never want to lose sight of what we have found in this community.

Having said all that, there is still more that needs to take place. We are looking for a few additional helping hands to decorate for Easter. If you like flowers and decorating, and are free on Holy Saturday morning at 10:00 AM, please give me or Michele Hall (631-265-2200 x120) a call. We would love to have your help.

Next Sunday begins the busiest week of the year. While there is a whirlwind of activities and busyness, we are delighted to see so many people come to Holy Cross for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. We hope and pray you share in the spirit and prayers of these days.

The **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** has been moved to this weekend after the 9:30 Mass.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Weekly Calendar

Saturday, March 25th	5 PM Mass
• LI CARES FOOD DRIVE	Atrium
• K OF C MAGNET SALE	Atrium
Sunday, March 26th	All Masses
• LI CARES FOOD DRIVE	Atrium
• K OF C MAGNET SALE	Atrium
• ANOINTING OF THE SICK	10:30AM Worship Area
• BAPTISMS	1PM Worship Area
Monday, March 27th	6 PM
• LEVEL 6 SEDER	Atrium
Tuesday, March 28th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• RCIA	7PM Fr. Joe Room
• CHOIR PRACTICE	Worship Area
Wednesday, March 29th	6 PM
• LEVEL 6 SEDER	Atrium
• TENEBRAE REHEARSAL	7:30PM Worship Area
Thursday, March 30th	10 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY	Fr. Joe Room
• DRESS A GIRL	1-3PM Atrium
• LEVEL 5 STATIONS	7PM Worship Area
Friday, March 31st	7:30 PM
• TENEBRAE	Worship Area
Saturday, April 1st	3:30-4:30 PM
• HOLY HOUR	Worship Area

Scripture Readings for April 2, 2023



- + *Isaiah 50:4-7*
- + *Philippians 2:6-11*
- + *Matthew 26:14-27:66*

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



- 5:00 PM Fr. Michael
- 8:00 AM Fr. Michael
- 9:30 AM Fr. Frank/Dcn. Joe
- 11:30 AM Fr. Frank/Dcn. Joe

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.*

Attention Prayer Blanket Ministers!

Our supply of Prayer Blankets is running low. Please help us re-stock so we'll have enough for all in need. Thank you!



Save the Date!
Volunteer Appreciation Party
Sunday, May 21, 3-6PM



Women's Prayer Group

Women's Prayer Group has not met since before the pandemic, and we would like to resume this ministry. The format is simple: women from the parish meet for 1 hour and pray with Scripture, with time for quiet reflection and sharing. No experience is required, just a desire for some time with God. If interested, please check your availability on the tear-off below and return it to the Parish Office by Easter Sunday, April 9. Questions, call Jude at ext. 116.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

I could meet on: Saturday, 10:00AM Wednesday, 10:00AM Thursday, 7:00PM



HOLY WEEK & EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

TENEBRAE SERVICE

Friday, March 31, 2023: 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, April 3: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM & 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Good Friday, April 7: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Holy Saturday, April 8: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM



PALM SUNDAY APRIL 2, 2023

Saturday 4/1/23: 5:00 PM Mass

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM (LS)

HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2023

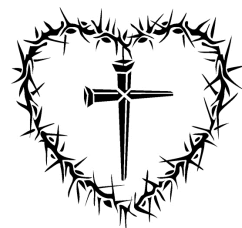
Mass of the Lord's Supper - 8:00 PM (LS)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7, 2023

Children's Service - 12:00 Noon (LS)

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion - 3:00 PM (LS)



HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 8, 2023

Solemn Easter Vigil - 8:00 PM (LS)

**NO AFTERNOON CONFESSIONS OR 5:00 PM MASS
ON HOLY SATURDAY**



EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 9, 2023

Masses: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:30 AM (LS)

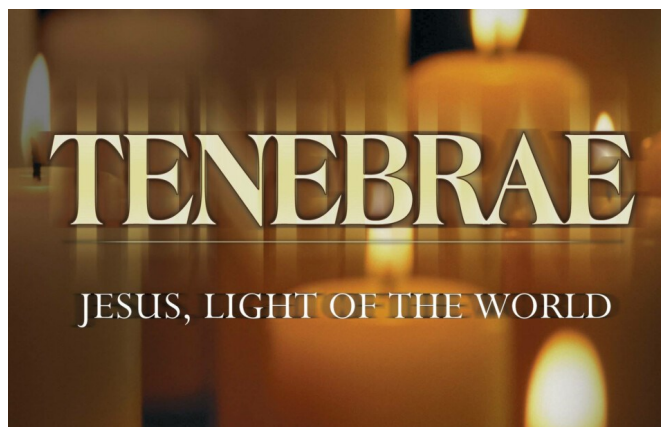
(LS) = Also Live Streamed

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 **Friday, March 31st**, at **7:30 PM** as we prepare our hearts and minds for the great gift of *Holy Week*.

Easter Flower Envelopes—Names of loved ones will appear in the Easter bulletin.



LITURGY BYTES

What happened to the Alleluia?



Now that we are into Lent by five weeks, do you wonder why we no longer sing the “Alleluia” before the Gospel? Actually, the Lenten season is marked by two very distinctive liturgical omissions. Neither the “Gloria” nor the “Alleluia” verse are permitted to be used during the entire 40 days of Lent with a few exceptions. Why?

First of all, the “Gloria” is a hymn that celebrates the coming of the Lord using words from the angels at Christ’s birth. The Church during Lent returns in spirit to a time when the people of God were in exile, waiting for the Messiah to come and save them. It is a similar season of expectation as is Advent, but instead of awaiting Christ’s birth, Christians await Christ’s second *birth* from the tomb on Easter morning.

Secondly, following this same spirit of exile, the Church joins Moses and the Israelites as they wander in the desert for 40 years. It is a time of agony and purification. The word *Alleluia* is rooted in a Hebrew expression that means praise the Lord. We join with the Israelites in saying: “How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” (Psalm 137:4) and omit it during the Lenten season.

As a result, the focus for Lent is not one of rejoicing, but mourning the things that prevent us from an authentic relationship with God. Once we make attempts to remove these *things*, through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we are able to rejoice again at Easter. After all, it is only through Christ’s resurrection that we celebrate Easter and our own rebirth as sons and daughters of God!

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

Our **Holy Hour for Life** will be offered Saturday, April 1, from 3:45-4:45 PM.



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



Envelopes are still available on the bulletin tables and can be returned through Easter Sunday. The money you saved and donated to Outreach will be used to assist families in our area who struggle, enabling them to provide food and maintain housing for their households.

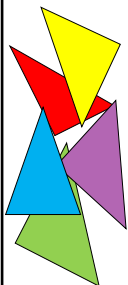
Long Island Cares Food Drive this Weekend

Please place your non-perishable food items in the boxes in the Atrium. Thank you for reaching out beyond our community to help the struggling on Long Island.



Dress a Girl Around the World

Cut-Ups: (those who cut the material and assemble our dress kits)



Our “Cut-Ups” will meet **Thursday, March 30th, from 1PM to 3PM** in the atrium. We will continue cutting out dresses for the little ones in need. **Please RSVP to Outreach at 631-265-2200** (limited space available). No skill required. All are welcome!

We are, once again, looking for donations of larger pieces of cotton fabric (2-3 yards) for the body of the dress. Thank you in advance for your constant support and generosity of our *Dress a Girl* ministry.

Stitch-Ups: (those who sew the dresses found in our dress kits)



Our “Stitch-Ups” are welcome to pick up completed dress kits by calling the Outreach Office at 631-265-2200. Everything you need to complete a dress is included in a kit including instructions. Any questions—we are just a phone call away! Thank you!

PARISH OUTREACH

Outreach Food Pantry

Next Saturday and Sunday, **April 1st/2nd**, will be our monthly Food Drive for our Parish Outreach Pantry. The following items would be most helpful:

- Canned Fruit
- Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Mayonnaise
- Mac and Cheese
- Meals in a Can
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels



Please don't forget to check expiration dates! It will greatly assist the volunteers who stack the pantry with your donated goods. Thank you!

A special thank you to Girl Scout Service Unit 3 (Sachem) for hosting a food drive to benefit our Outreach pantry. We are thankful for your generous donation and for all your hard work. The food collected will help to feed many families in our community. Thank you, Girl Scout Service Unit 3!

FOR YOUTH

For *YOUTH*

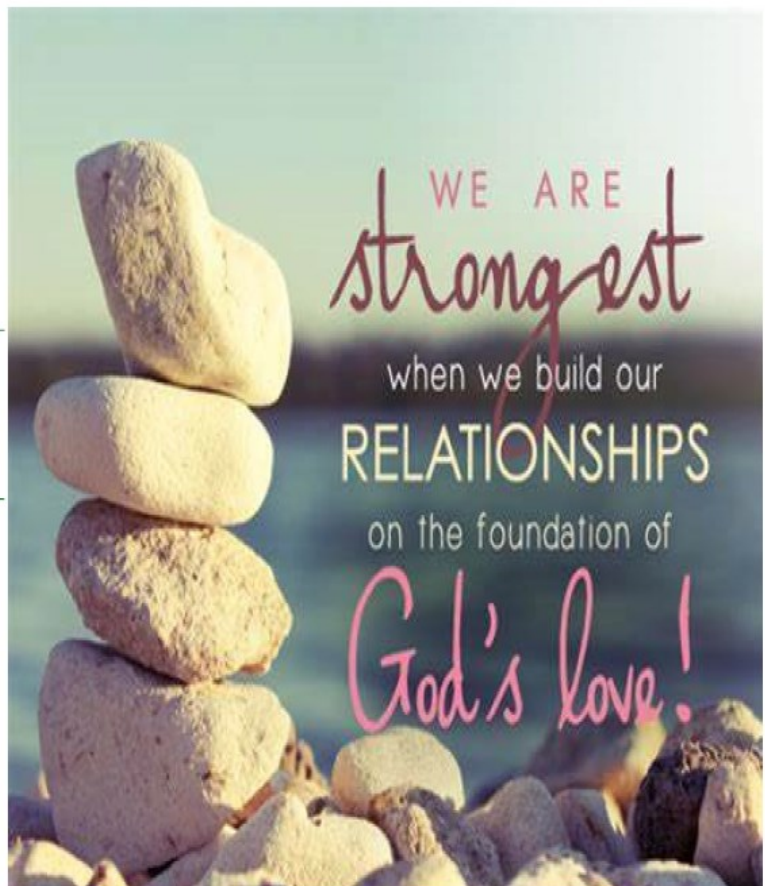
Leading teens closer to Christ

**Come to 5pm Mass
April 15th**

*Join us after Mass for fun, food and fellowship!**

All 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th graders are **WELCOME!**

**DINNER AND DESSERT WILL BE SERVED*



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

2023

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-Pope Francis

Catholic Charities Outreach Programs journey with all who come through their doors.

Maria Ryan is the Director of the Parish Social Ministry (PSM) at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, Centerport, where she oversees 15 vibrant ministries. She introduced us to Sarah and her daughter, Belle.

"Shortly after we moved into the area, our daughter Belle was diagnosed with cancer. Out of sheer desperation I called our church to ask if Father could anoint her and that's when I met Maria Ryan. Maria has taken us under her wing in more ways than we could ever imagine. It's been over a year and she checks in with us just about every day. The church has helped us spiritually, emotionally, and financially. My husband had to quit work to help us with care for Belle. The parish has helped us to stay afloat by helping with medical bills and travel expenses incurred traveling into the city for Belle's treatment." shared Sarah



Please make check payable to the **Catholic Ministries Appeal**

Name: Parish of the Holy Cross—176 Parish: _____

Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Telephone number: Home _____ Cell: _____

Signature: _____

To make a donation, you can also visit <https://www.drvc.org/CMA/> or call us at 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Brochures are available 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. 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 “*Spring Cash Fling*.” This is a similar idea, however it will be offered initially on a quarterly basis.

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through March, April and May.
- Drawing will be held **May 25th**.

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!

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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