

The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +
www.pothc.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.*

2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone
is in
Christ,
there is
a new
creation.



Come and pray with us!

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time - June 20, 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 live streamed 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 + 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 Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister, ext.119

Mrs. Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Michele Hahn
Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112
Coordinator of Religious Education

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

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano
Business Manager, ext.110

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

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

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

Mr. Roberto Maza
Mr. Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Remembering Our Sick

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

Kathy Barry	Patricia Becker
Barbara Bombace	Ann Callari
Manuela Diaz	Ann Egan
Jim Emerson	Sienna Fricke
Jeanne Gallo	Bob Grieco
Debbie Jablinowski	Gerald Losquadro
Charlotte Lynch	Michael Maroney
Olivia Melia	Joseph Santamaria
Barbara Sherry	Marlene Starr
David Velkas	Doreen Velkas
Judy Viskupic	Peter Warns

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick, please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 x122.

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of June 20, 9AM Mass

Mon. Greg Wirth, Barbara Donohue
Tue. Giuseppe Carnevale
Wed. John & Josephine O'Shea
Thu. Victor Lamarque



Saturday, June 26th, 5PM Mass

Louis Follo, Maryann Follo, Nell Cangiano, Eileen Kamine, Adrienne Reilly, Vincenzo Baratta

Sunday, June 27th, 13th Sunday-Ordinary Time

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto
9:30 AM People of the Parish
11:30 AM Guillerma Banaguas, Pedro Banaguas, Carmine Vacchio, Christopher Cotter, William Babington, Giovanni Gallo

Scripture Readings for June 27, 2021



+ *Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24*
+ *2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15*
+ *Mark 5:21-43*

THE COUNTDOWN TO THE BIG 6-0

by Father Michael

This year my birthday gives me an occasion for pause. I'm sure once Wednesday passes I will be back to normal, but anticipating the reality of the day is a little frazzling. What happened? It seems like yesterday I was playing with my Tonka Toys (some of which I still have). My life has been filled with so many blessings. Certainly my priestly ministry has brought great levels of joy and satisfaction. It can be a wondrous and humbling experience to realize all the places our life journey has brought us and all the people we have met along the way. I realize next Sunday is not the most convenient day for a get-together (lots of other parties and events take place at this time of the year), but I look forward to seeing those who will be able to gather on the front lawn of the parish house for a little birthday whoop-de-doo.

I'm happy to report that there will be a new member joining our Pastoral Team. We look forward to welcoming Deacon Joseph Maffeo. He has lived and ministered in the Ronkonkoma area for the past 30 years. He is looking to continue his ministry, and we are very happy to roll out the welcome mat for him here at Holy Cross. I appreciate the help he will be able to offer with baptisms and weddings. He will also preach at our weekend Masses as Deacon Ralph does. And I am sure he will be joining in many of our parish ministries. He will be introducing himself at all the Masses next weekend. Welcome Deacon Joe!

This week the Pastoral Team and Staff will be having our annual evaluation and planning day. Last year the day went by the wayside with all the other distractions of life that were taking place, but happily we are able to gather again this year. This gives us an opportunity to work together as we plan and look forward to the coming year. The Parish Offices will be closed on Tuesday afternoon.

On Monday we formally welcome summer. It is the day of the year with the most hours of sunshine. Last year many of us tried to make the best of the season, but there were still many obstacles and limitations. This summer lends itself more to a time for gathering together and enjoying life. I have a number of little trips planned and look forward to a very happy July and August. I hope you are looking forward to this time as well. Embrace the opportunities for relaxation and celebration when they come along.

I look forward to seeing some of you on Wednesdays at Kohl's. I understand that is senior citizen discount day.

PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



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

The Bread and Wine for the week June 20th-26th have been donated in loving memory of
Joseph V. Pellechi, Jr.
by the Whitehead family.



Holy Cross Seniors

Our Holy Cross Senior Group is back and looking for new members to join them for an afternoon of fun and socializing.

You are invited to stop in on the **second and fourth Wednesday** of the month and meet some new friends. The meeting is held in the Atrium of the Church from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM.

We will be meeting on June 23rd.
Hope to see you there!



Special Collection

Next week we will take up the **Peter's Pence** Collection, which unites us and Catholics around the world more closely with the Holy Father in two ways: it supports the structures of the Holy See through which the Pope governs the Church as well as his charitable efforts to assist victims of war, oppression, natural disasters, and others most in need.

For more information, visit
<http://www.peterspence.va/en.html>.

Come to Assisi and Rome with Fr. Jim McNamara

The trip to celebrate my fiftieth anniversary of priesthood is now scheduled for

August 25 - September 3, 2021.

You can access the website by going to:

www.pilgrimages.com/frjimcnamara



Msgr. James McNamara

LITURGY BYTES

Symbols in Confirmation

Water, oil and light are tangible signs that tell us something for which words can provide only the barest outline – that God is genuinely with us. We touched on some of these symbols last week in our look at some of the symbols used in the Sacrament of Baptism. This week it's on to the Sacrament that reaffirms Baptism which is Confirmation.



Receive the Holy Spirit.

God is here as the hymn “Gather Us In” assures us. What meets our senses makes God present to us. The familiar smell of incense, candles, the warmth of hugs and handshakes, fragrance of flowers adorning the sanctuary are most of what we missed when we were in shutdown mode during the pandemic quarantine last year. Let us look at some familiar symbols, perhaps taken for granted, and find a new meaning!

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, the symbols that are outstanding, in my humble opinion, are the laying on of hands, the anointing with the Sacred Chrism and the confirming prayer. Confirmation reaffirms our Baptism, strengthening our experience of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, already received at the time of our Baptism, but now taking on a more deeper meaning, as we are anointed with the Sacred Chrism.

At Confirmation, we hear in Scripture the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit from the Acts of the Apostles as it happened to them and Mary in the upper room on Pentecost. In preparing candidates for this Sacrament, we reassure them this second coming of the Holy Spirit will not be as dramatic as the Pentecost story. However, once confirmed we are more aware of the gifts working in our lives. The anointing with the Sacred Chrism, sealing us with the gifts of the Spirit, leaves a special mark on each candidate as does the Confirmation prayer when the calling of the Holy Spirit, known as the “epiclesis,” is prayed over the candidates. These are profound moments as one is confirmed because of what these symbols represent and how they impact us. Candidates either reaffirm their baptismal name or add another name for Confirmation. We see evidence of this in Scripture: Simon became Peter, Levi became Matthew, Saul became Paul, to name just a few, when their relationship with God changed quite a bit. This also happens with Confirmation – our relationship with God takes on a new meaning!

As our young people are completing their preparation for Confirmation here at Holy Cross this fall, let us keep them in our prayers that they embrace the graces from this important day in their lives.

Have a blessed, safe and healthy week! ~~~Michele Hahn

Come Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Amen.

MASS REMEMBRANCES IN HONOR OF...



*We Remember our Fathers
on this Special Day!*



DOMINICK FOLLO
ROBERT FOLLO
DAVID MORRIS
KEENA, BURTON &
CANGIANO DADS
DENNIS J. KNIPPER
WILLIAM NESFIELD

WILLIAM NESFIELD, JR.
LOUIS NECROTO
GARCIA MEN
MANUEL COELHO
MANUEL MARTINS
RICHARD O'CONNOR
SON
ALL FATHERS

BERNARDO SCAPARRO
WILLIAM BORRUSO
RICHARD LAMB
JOSEPH POSIMATO
FRANK D'ESPOSITO
JIM EMERSON
PETER EMERSON
DENNIS KNIPPER

JOHN LEVANDI
SCOTT DESANTOLO
JOSEPH VOLPI
JAY SCHULTZ
HARRY SCHULTZ
MICHAEL ZEIDMAN
JOHN LAMPACH

MASS REMEMBRANCES IN MEMORY OF...

GREGORY WIRTH
JAMES CAIN
JOE CANGELERI
JOSEPH F. DUMINUCO
GEORGE A. SOTTUNG
PATRICK KEENA, SR.
PATRICK KEENA, JR.
LOUIS FOLLO
RAYMOND HENRY
BING ENG
REUEL MORRIS
ROBERT KEILEY, SR.
KEENA, FOLLO, BURTON
& CANGIANO FATHERS
BYRON G. VAN HORNE
JOHN M. SULLIVAN
JOHN J. SULLIVAN
JOSEPH HARTNAGLE
JOHN J. DALY
HENRY KNIPPER
GIOVANNI FINI
SALVATORE VITI
TOFFE HADITY
ARTHUR J. RIVERS
GEORGE VETTER
ALBERT MASANGYA
COSIMO CELAURO
JAMES MAGGIO
ANTHONY MAGGIO
JOSEPH MARONEY
JOHN MARONEY
HARRY LANDINI
FRANK SALEMI
PHIL HOOS, SR.
WILLIAM REECE

JAMES NESFIELD
GERALD MULDERIG, SR.
JOHN PERSICH
RUBEN VAZQUEZ PINTOR
SONNY GARCIA
HAROLD BURGER
RONALD RAGNO
TERRENCE MAY
PATRICK KELLY
JOSEPH J. MAROTTA
LEONARDO MAROTTA
FELIX REIDY
GEORGE REIDY
JOSEPH PAPPALARDO
CARL PAPPALARDO
CAMILLO BECCARELLI
JERRY PADRONE
CANDILORO POLISTENA
MICHAEL R. ESTOCK
PETER GIAMBALVO
ANGELO CHIRAFISI
SAM CHASINOV
JOSEPH A. LESCINSKI
FRANCIS DASTIS
BARTH LENIHAN
CHARLES INGHILTERRA
MICHAEL O'GRADY
TERRENCE O'GRADY
JOHN GIBBONS, SR.
JOHN GIBBONS, JR.
CLIFFORD EDWARDS
CHARLES SOKEL
LOUIS SELINEK
PETER SCHOLL
DOMINICK CARDONE

TONY FRANGOSIE
JOSEPH FRANGOSIE
DONALD STEVENSON
FRANK STEVENSON
MICHAEL DILLON
VITO ORLANDO
ANDREW ORLANDO
CHARLES MORENO
MICHAEL O'CONNOR
JOHN O'CONNOR
FRANK GIAMBANCO
NICHOLAS DIGIOVANNI
JOSEPH VITALE
GENE DOHERTY
VINCENT TRAPANI
VINCENT LOMBARDO
HENRY SWENSON
JOSEPH V. PELLECHI, JR.
JOSEPH V. PELLECHI, SR.
GEORGE H. STELLJES
FREDERICK W. WALKER
JOHN METZNER
DENNIS TRAVERS
THURMAN THESTRUP
VINCENT O'CONNOR
MARIO MASCARI
STEFANO DIBENEDETTO
DENNIS KELLY
JOHN DORNEY
JOHN KELLY
ERIC SCHWARZ
MICHAEL TERRANOVA
THOMAS BROPHY
BRUNO SANTINA
ENRICO FRANTELLIZI

CARMELO RIZZO
ROBERT TAVIS
JOSEPH MARINELLI
ROSARIO CARNESI
STEFANO LOPICCOLO
BIAGIO LOPICCOLO
TOMMASO CARNESI
JAMES BRENNAN
GLENN RAPLEE
BILL MACCARO
HENRY LUTZ
PETER N. BECKER
FRANK MARINO
HERBERT EANNACONE
JAMES H. WHITE
JOHN S. MENDOLIA
HAROLD KOHLER
HAROLD KOHLER, JR.
JOSEPH SKWAREK
HANS KRAMER
JOSEPH PATRICK CLARKE
THEODORE BANISH
MARIO LOPEZ
JOAQUIN LOPEZ
CARLOS MARIO LOPEZ
FELIPE NAVARRO
MAURICIO NAVARRO
FAUSTO ALBA
AGUEDA ALBA
PAT DELPRETE, JR.
ALFRED IZZO
TERENCE DONOHUE
MR. O. DESANTO
GEORGE GARGIULO
VINCENT BRUNO

MASS REMEMBRANCES IN MEMORY OF...

CHARLES G. SCHREIBER
RAYMOND CONWAY
WILLIAM CONWAY
HAROLD BERKINS
BENVENUTO MONACO
PAUL COLLURA
PAT LAPORTA
CHRIS VASILUTH
FRANK FERRANDINO, SR.
MICHAEL WINTERS
ELMER HORNBERGER
FATHER
GEORGE GROBLUSKI
RONALD DANDREA
JOSEPH A. DIBIASI
CLIFFORD ECKHARDT
ALL FATHERS
PETER FILIBERTO
GIUSEPPE FILIBERTO
GIOVANNI GRISANZIO
JOHN A. FERONY
CARLOS GINEBRA
FRANK PERRINO, SR.
CHARLES ITALIANO
FRANK PERRINO, JR.
JOSEPH RUANE
RICHARD BARKEY
NICHOLAS POSIMATO
NICHOLAS LAMB
WILLIAM McQUADE
JAMES DIKEMAN
JOSEPH JOST
JOSEPH DIROSA
JACK MULA
JOSEPH D'ESPOSITO
RALPH A. FANDETTA
RALPH ZINZI
ANGELO FANDETTA
DANIEL J. PACIELLO
EUGENE E. BISSELL
MICHAEL TERRANOVA
THOMAS BROPHY
WILLIAM RYDER
PAUL KRUK
THEODORE KRUK
EDWIN MORRIS
JOSEPH SVERCEL
DOMINIC MINARDI
PETER LIPNICKI
HAROLD O'HANLON
KEVIN O'HANLON
BRIAN O'HANLON
GEORGE MARINO

DOMINICK TANZOLA
VINCENT MATTERA
JOSEPH LOMBARDO
ARTHUR SICARI
SANTO SICARI
CHARLES TORTI
DOMINICK A. CAPONEGRO, JR.
JOSEPH C. NATOLI, JR.
WILLIAM A. RAMMELKAMP
HENRY WHITE
RICHARD P. CANALINI
NICHOLAS CANALINI
ANTHONY CARACCILO
WILLIAM SCHNURR
STEPHEN BURSKY
JAMES P. McALLISTER
ARMAND MACGILLIVRAY
FRANK PUPPA
PETER LEPTICH
GIOVANNI GRASS
VINCENT SERRANTONIO
MICHAEL SIMONETTI
ROBERT RICCARDI
BARRY ARMANDI
EDWARD PHILAPAVAGE
WILLIAM FORD
GEORGE PRUDENTI
HOWARD ALDERDICE
RAFAEL CARRERA
ANTHONY DEVITO, JR.
DOMINICK TESTA
ANTHONY DEVITO, SR.
WALTER V. KUCZWAJ
EDMUND G. MAKOWSKI
SONNY GARCIA
RAYMOND FICHTER
CHARLES SIMS
BURKE SAMSON
LAWRENCE ZELTMANN
VITO LIGABO
PIETRO DRAGOTTA
PATRICK EGAN
MICHAEL CORCORAN
EDWARD LLOYD
JAMES LECHNER
HAROLD BUDREO
LAWRENCE TSCHUMI
RICHARD HAUSER
JACK AURRICHIO
WILLIAM HENRY
JOHN McCULLOCH
PETER MEDARO
ANTHONY MEDARO

SAMUEL PASQUA
RAYMOND SCHUHRIMEN
ALFRED ZIMMERMANN
THOMAS MCGOWAN
NATALE BONAVERO
EDWARD RUDNICKI
LEON RUDNICKI
DANIEL NOLAN
DONATO RIVERA
JAMES CONNOR
WARREN COTTER
WALTER O'HARA
ALFRED JONES, SR.
JIM WINBERRY
JIMMY WINBERRY
FRANK WINBERRY
ALFRED ZACCARIA
JOSEPH ZACCARIA
AL ZACCARIA
SALVATORE CASTRONOVO
THEODORE JOSEPH KOERICK
JOHN J. DALY
HENRY J. KNIPPER
TIMOTHY DALY, SR.
RICHARD HARRINGTON
WALTER V. KUCZWAJ
FRANK FISCINA
ANTHONY FUMAI
VINCENT CADOLINO
FRANK SACCO
ARMAND CUTINELLA
LUIS E. FORERO
PHIL DENOBREGA
ANGELO NAVARRA
CLEMENT DENOBREGA
ENRICO FORTE
MICHAEL TERRANOVA
CHARLES POWERS
EUGENE MANZO, SR.
ANTHONY BRUNO
JOHN SCHULTZ
PASQUALE BASILE
NICHOLAS DESANTIS
FRANCIS R. McCUTCHEN
FRANCIS C. SLATTERY
FELIX KUST
CHARLES E. HANER
PETER GALLO
VINCENT GALLO
PETER GRAUS
DAVID LAMPACH
STEVEN GOELLNER
GASPAR LOMBARDO
HAROLD YAGER



PARISH OUTREACH

Please join Outreach for our

Father's Day Drive

Saturday, June 19th, and Sunday, June 20th,

at all the Masses to benefit the men of



We will be collecting the following:

Cologne

Shaving Cream

Razors

Deodorant

Men's Shower Gel

.....
Please drop off all items in the bins (marked Father's Day) located in the Atrium of the Church no later than June 21st. Thank you for your support!

Happy Father's Day!!!

Parish Outreach is in need of brown bags with handles from Trader Joe's. If you have any to spare, please drop them off. Thank you!

BACKGROUND SCREENING UPDATE

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

1. Attend **Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)**
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screen application. The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5-year intervals. volunteers/employees.

A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: www.Virtus.org
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct - provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application offered during the Virtus registration process.

Active Volunteers:

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened, you may be at—or beyond—the **5yr. rescreening requirement**. If this is the case, you will receive an email from **Sterling Volunteers** asking you to complete the background screening application online. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. **Please be aware—this is not a scam nor has your email been hacked.** The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically re-sign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

Edit Your Virtus Account:

To access your Virtus account www.Virtus.org you will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or helpdesk@virtus.org. Once in your account, review your account information—particularly your email address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen, in the green column, click "Update My Account." You will be able to make the necessary changes. Please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: mmcmahon@drvc.org; amendoza-cantos@drvc.org; jwinter@drvc.org; pditomasso@drvc.org

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days.

WHAT'S NEW?

Summer Cash Sizzle

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 "Summer Cash Sizzle." This is a similar idea, however it will be offered initially on a quarterly basis.

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through June, July and August.
- Drawing will be held August 30.

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!

Summer Cash Sizzle

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Summer Cash Sizzle

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Summer Cash Sizzle

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Summer Cash Sizzle

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Tuesday, June 22nd	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• STAFF PLANNING DAY	Parish House
<i>(The Parish Office is closed Tuesday afternoon for Planning Day.)</i>	
Wednesday, June 23rd	11:30AM-2:30PM
• SENIOR GROUP	Atrium
Thursday, June 24th	7 PM
• BOOK CLUB	Atrium
Sunday, June 27th	1 PM
• BAPTISMS	Worship Area

PRAYER FOR HEALING

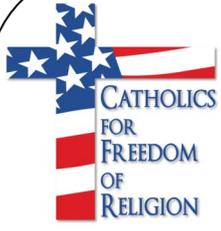
Prayer for Healing Victims of Abuse

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just:

You gave your only Son to save us by the blood of his cross. Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear our cries as we agonize over the harm done to our brothers and sisters. Breathe wisdom into our prayers, soothe restless hearts with hope, steady shaken spirits with faith. Show us the way to justice and wholeness, enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy. Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people's wounds and transform our brokenness. Grant us courage and wisdom, humility, and grace, so that we may act with justice and find peace in you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
Amen

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



U.S. Catholic Bishops Designate Religious Freedom Week: June 22-29

www.cffor.org

Each year, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) observes Religious Freedom Week. It begins on June 22, the feast day of SS Thomas More and John Fisher, two English martyrs who fought religious persecution in the early 16th century. The week includes the Nativity of St. John the Baptist on June 24 and ends on June 29, the feast of SS Peter and Paul, two apostles martyred in Rome.

The theme chosen for this year is *Solidarity in Freedom*. "Solidarity means much more than engaging in sporadic acts of generosity. It means thinking and acting in terms of community." ⁽¹⁾

The Bishops invite all "to pray, reflect and act to promote religious freedom." ⁽²⁾ The USCCB offers resources for each day focusing on different areas of religious freedom at

www.usccb.org/ReligiousFreedomWeek

"It's the duty of everyone to defend religious freedom and promote it for all people." - Pope Francis

(Fratelli tutti, 116 (1); catholicphilly.com(2); aleteai.org, 6/3/21; 1.cbn.com, 6/6/21(3); toddstarnes.com, 6/7/21 (5); Tinker v. DesMoines 1969(4)

Happening Now: A Victory! 2nd Grader Will be Allowed to Read Bible During Recess

A second grader in Illinois who liked to sometimes read her Bible both silently and aloud during recess had it taken away when her teacher said, "You can't be doing that."⁽³⁾ Her parents reached out to American Center for Law & Justice (ACLJ) who wrote a letter to the district explaining a Supreme Court ruling that "students do not shed their constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gates..." ⁽⁴⁾ "We're happy to report that after reading our letter, the school thanked us for educating them and removed all restrictions on Gabrielles's reading," the ACLJ reported. ⁽⁵⁾



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(631) 981-7500

CENTRAL ISLIP
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(631) 234-6000

BOHEMIA
1320 Lakeland Avenue
(631) 589-1500

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