

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!

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time - September 26, 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; 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 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:

Ada Agugliaro	Celeste Babi
Jo Barry	Kathy Barry
Patricia Becker	Barbara Bombace
Ann Callari	Eleanor Daly
Manuela Diaz	Ann Egan
Jim Emerson	Sienna Fricke
Jeanne Gallo	Bob Grieco
Debbie Jablinowski	Diane Jones
Gerald Losquadro	Charlotte Lynch
Michael Maroney	Olivia Melia
Liam Richards	Joseph Santamaria
Barbara Sherry	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 September 26th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Anthony Brady
Tue. Victor Lamarque
Wed. Anthony Milano
Thu. John Schultz

Saturday, October 2nd, 5PM Mass

Jane O'Donnell, Lucy Blass, Kathleen Griffin, Frank Fuimano, Gloria Posimato

Sunday, October 3rd, 27th Sun. in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM James Michael Plocica
11:30 AM Patrick Egan, Honore McGeown, Maria Reczuch, Pauline Boccio, Paul Hartmann



Scripture Readings for October 3, 2021



+ Genesis 2:18-24
+ Hebrews 2:9-11
+ Mark 10:2-16

THE SPIRIT ABOUNDS

by Father Michael

Normally we associate celebrating the Holy Spirit with Pentecost which occurs in May. We cannot limit the work of the Spirit to any one season. On many levels this autumn is a time to celebrate the Spirit which is alive and well in our parish. There are many corners of the parish where new and life-giving events are happening. A new bereavement group is underway as well as a mini-course in liturgy. We have offered evenings for both teens and adults in coping with stress and anxiety. There are several new offerings coming through our Outreach Office. Please keep checking the bulletin and our website (which is also new and improved) for upcoming events.

Three cheers and thank you to our Knights of Columbus who provided a delightful barbeque last week after the 11:30 Mass. Last weekend was a little celebration of Holy Cross parish and the faith life that we share together. It was a beautiful day to gather after Mass and enjoy a hamburger or hot dog. I am appreciative of all the efforts that went into providing this hospitality for the parish. If anyone is interested in joining the Knights and helping in their efforts, call the Parish Office and we will pass your information along.

Although it is fall, a celebration of the Holy Spirit is just around the corner. We are in the final days of preparation for our Level 9 students who will be receiving their Confirmation on October 1 & 2. Last week we had several Penance services, and this coming week is their rehearsal. Once again, this year delegation has been given to all pastors to celebrate Confirmation within the parish. Normally a bishop is the one to confer the sacrament to our young people, but last year with limited seating capacity it made the scheduling impossible for a bishop to be present at all the services a parish needed. This permission was extended through the end of the calendar year. Next year we look forward to welcoming back one of our bishops for the celebration of Confirmation.

This weekend we begin a new format for our preparation for Baptism. The former program consisted of a Pastoral Team Member meeting individually with mom and dad, and then there would be a one-time "class" during the week. We will continue to meet individually with first-time parents, but now the group meeting will be taking place about once a month on select Sundays. Parents are invited to attend the 9:30AM Mass. Afterwards there is a gathering and discussion with them in the Fr. Joe Room. The Baptism Prep Team has been expanded, and we look forward to this being a more engaging format. Often the Baptism of a first child is what brings mom and dad back to Church; it is essential that the experience include part of our Sunday gathering with the entire community. Indeed, the Spirit is abounding around here in different ways.

Check out our new website www.holycrossrc.org and subscribe on the homepage to our parish email list. You will never receive spam from the parish, only important notifications!

PARISH NEWS

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses, October 2nd/3rd



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

Altar Servers Needed!

Are you in fourth grade (or above) and interested in becoming an Altar Server?

Girls and boys interested in serving are invited to come to trainings and find out all that is involved in being an Altar Server. At the end of the three training sessions, you will be able to assist at Mass as an Altar Server. Training will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 PM on three consecutive Wednesday afternoons: October 20, 27 and November 3. **Please call the Parish Office to register.**



Meetings this Week

- Saturday, September 25th** 8 AM
 • VEGETABLE GDN. CLEANUP Vegetable Gdn.
- Sunday, September 26th** After 9:30 Mass
 • BAPTISM GATHERING Fr. Joe Room
 • BAPTISMS 1 PM Worship Area
 • PARENT HEALTH NIGHT 7PM Worship Area
- Monday, September 27th** 5 & 7 PM
 • CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL Worship Area
- Tuesday, September 28th** 10 AM
 • IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room
 • VIEW FROM THE PEW 7PM Chapel
 • BAPTISM PREP TEAM Fr. Joe Room
- Wednesday, September 29th** 5 & 7 PM
 • CONFIRMATION REHEARSAL Worship Area
- Thursday, September 30th** 1:30 - 3:30 PM
 • BEREAVEMENT Fr. Joe Room
- Friday, October 1st** 2 & 5 PM
 • CONFIRMATIONS Worship Area
- Saturday, October 2nd** 10 AM & 1 PM
 • CONFIRMATIONS Worship Area
 • HOLY HOUR 3:45-4:45PM Worship Area
 • CAR WASH PRESALE 5PM Atr./Courtyard
- Sunday, October 3rd** All Masses
 • CAR WASH PRESALE Atr./Courtyard
 • ANOINTING OF SICK 10:30AM Worship Area
 • CHILDREN'S LITURGY 11:30AM Fr. Joe Room
 • BAPTISMS 1 PM Worship Area

RCIA

Are you seeking Baptism? Are you a baptized Catholic who never celebrated First Communion and Confirmation? Have you been baptized in another Christian faith and now desire to become Catholic?

If your answer is "YES" to any of these questions, we want to hear from you. The Church gives us a beautiful process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for those who seek to become fully initiated in the Catholic Church. This year's RCIA will be starting soon. If you're interested and would like additional information, please contact Jude Pickel at 631-265-2200 x116.



RCIA

THE HOLY CROSS MOMS' GROUP

ATTENTION ALL MOTHERS!

Are you yearning for:

- the companionship of other moms?
- the sound of another adult voice?
- some quiet time?
- a chance to see where God is in your busy life?

Then, why not think about trying ...

THE HOLY CROSS MOMS' GROUP

Our group is re-gathering at a new day and time:
Tuesday evening, once a month, from **7:00 – 8:00 PM**.

Mothers of all ages are welcome. Come, relax with a cup of tea or coffee, and share with other moms the joys and challenges of motherhood.

First meeting: **Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 PM**

For more information, call Jude at x116.


Mom

PARISH NEWS

Banns of Marriage-First Time

Jessica Reed & Johnny Santos

Second Time

Amelia Balestrieri & Robert Bailey

Carwash Fundraiser

An Eagle Scout project to improve the clothing donation bin area is planned. The plan includes removing the overgrown vegetation, leveling out the area, laying a cement slab, planting trees and spreading mulch. The car wash will take place on October 16 from 10AM to 2PM at the Nesconset Fire House. Presale tickets will be on sale after Mass next weekend.



Special Collections

This weekend we will be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund.

Next weekend we will be collecting for **Respect Life**. Support of this ministry encompasses prayer, education, advocacy, and care and services. Thank you for your support!

Parish Outreach Food Pantry

Next Saturday and Sunday, **October 2nd/3rd**, will be our monthly Food Drive for our Parish Outreach Pantry. The following items would be most helpful:

- Sauce
- Coffee/Tea
- Canned Chicken
- Hot Cereal
- Garbage Bags (small boxes)



Please check expiration dates! It will greatly assist the volunteers who stack the pantry with your donated goods. Thank you!

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word allows children in grades K-4 to hear God's Word in language they can understand and gives them the opportunity to ask and answer questions.

We will be meeting in the Fr. Joe Room two or three Sundays per month during the 11:30 Mass. **Children are required to wear masks, and families should arrive early to sign up at the Fr. Joe Room. Limited to first 15 children to sign up.**

We are looking for additional adult leaders (18 years and older) and helpers (5th grade and above). Training and community service hours are available. Time commitment will be dependent on the number of leaders and helpers we have. If you are interested in joining this ministry or have any questions, please contact Karyn at **631-648-3594**.



Anointing of the Sick

In the past, people received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick only when they were gravely ill. However, the Church believes that the Anointing of the Sick should be experienced while we are still able to be aware of God's peaceful presence within us.

You are strongly encouraged to receive this Sacrament if you are having upcoming surgery, are dealing with a chronic or debilitating illness, are suffering from addiction, mental health issues or frailty.

On the first Sunday of each month, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick is offered after the 9:30 AM Mass. **Sunday, October 3rd, is the next date the Anointing will be offered.**

PARISH OUTREACH

As we transition into a new school year and navigate our way through the never-ending changes of life, we are reminded that you cannot pour from an empty cup.

Let us help you “**fill up your cup**” with a

Parent Mental Health Check Up and Check In



with **Special Guest Speakers**

Tony Bellizzi, Youth Minister, Inspirational Speaker and Activist &
Cindy Garcia, New York State Licensed Therapist

Join Tony and Cindy as they share strategies to cope, feel empowered and move forward. This is a safe place to share and listen. All are welcome.

**Where: Parish of the Holy Cross
95 Nichols Road
Nesconset, NY 11767**

When: Sunday, September 26, 2021

Time: 7:00pm to 8:30pm

No reservations needed. For more information, call Parish Outreach at **631-265-2200 ext. 113**.

LITURGY

Liturgy Bytes—The Archangels

At the end of this month (on September 29th), the Church celebrates the feast of the Archangels: Michael, Gabriel and Raphael. The Church confirms the existence of angels and that they are active in our lives. The word angel comes from a Greek word which means messenger. Since I am named for one of them, I will begin with Michael.

St. Michael's name means "one who is like God." He is mentioned four times in the Bible: in the book of Daniel (twice), in the letter of Jude and in the book of Revelations. He is known as the "Prince of the Heavenly Host" and considered the leader of the angels and the one who cast down Lucifer into hell. He is invoked for protection against the devil and all evil. In 1917, Michael appeared to the children of Fatima to prepare them for the work of the Blessed Mother.



Next, we focus on St. Gabriel. His name means "God's strength" and is mentioned four times in the Bible. Most significant are Gabriel's two mentions in the New Testament to announce the birth of John the Baptist to his father, Zachary, and at the Incarnation – the birth of Jesus. Tradition also suggests that he appeared to St. Joseph and the Shepherds and then to Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane to offer him strength for what he was about to endure.

Our last of the archangels is Raphael. His name means "God has healed." This name was given because he healed Tobias' blindness which we read about in the book of Tobit. Tobit is the only book in which Raphael is mentioned. Actually, he is known for healing and acts of mercy. Raphael is also identified with the angel in John 5:1-4 who descended upon the pond and bestowed healing powers upon it so that the first to enter it would be healed of whatever infirmity they were suffering. God has commended to each of us an angel for our very own. Let us thank God for our own angels and for these archangels.

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



Holy Hour for Peace

We offer our Holy Hour on the first Saturday of the month from 3:45-4:45 PM in the Worship Area. The next one will take place on Saturday, October 2nd. Please come and spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament praying for God's gift of peace to touch our wounded world.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE



Religious Education classes will begin the week of October 18th. Please check our parish website — holycrossrc.org — and our bulletin for upcoming parent meetings. You will be able to pick up your child's books and folders at your meeting. If you have not registered, please do so **asap**. **Children must be registered in order to receive their materials.** We look forward to a wonderful year with you!!

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello everyone! Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games? Do you want to build more of an understanding about yourself and your faith?

If you answered "Yes!" to any one of those questions above, then you **MUST** check out the **Holy Cross Youth Group!** You will be glad you did! The Holy Cross Youth Group is the perfect opportunity for you to continue to grow in your faith and build relationships with others in the parish. Join us for our **Fall Kickoff** event:



Sunday, October 17 - The Youth Group will be having a fun Youth Night from 6 to 8PM! All new 9th graders who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation this October are invited to attend. Hope to see you there!

For more information, contact our Youth Minister, Allie Roecklein, at youthgroup@holycrossrc.org.

PARISH OUTREACH

Cooking out of the Pantry

See Flyer on Next Page

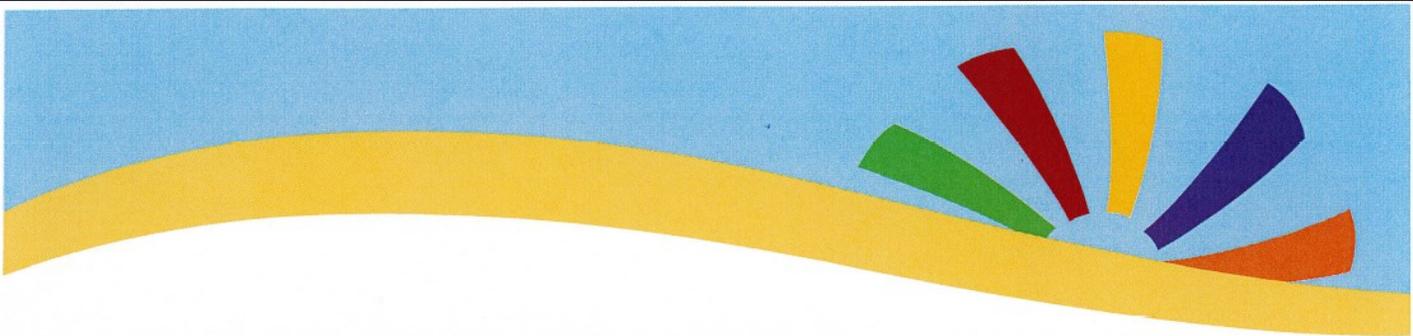
“Cooking out of the Pantry” needs many hands to make the night a success. Please consider sharing some of your time to volunteer before, during and after the event. Any time would be appreciated.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Setup - help setting the table for dinner service
- Cleanup - clearing table, disposing of garbage, and sanitizing tables
- Servers - helping to serve food and drinks throughout the night
- Shoppers - shopping for ingredients, drinks, and paper products

Contact Kelley at Outreach at 631-265-2200 Ext. 113 to find out more information and/or sign up. This is a great opportunity for service hours.

PARISH OUTREACH



Cooking out of the Pantry with Jackie Vecchiarelli

Our Outreach Pantry is filled with shelf stable, healthy foods that we share with those we serve.

Join us as we explore new and exciting ways to create new dishes using ingredients from our Pantry.

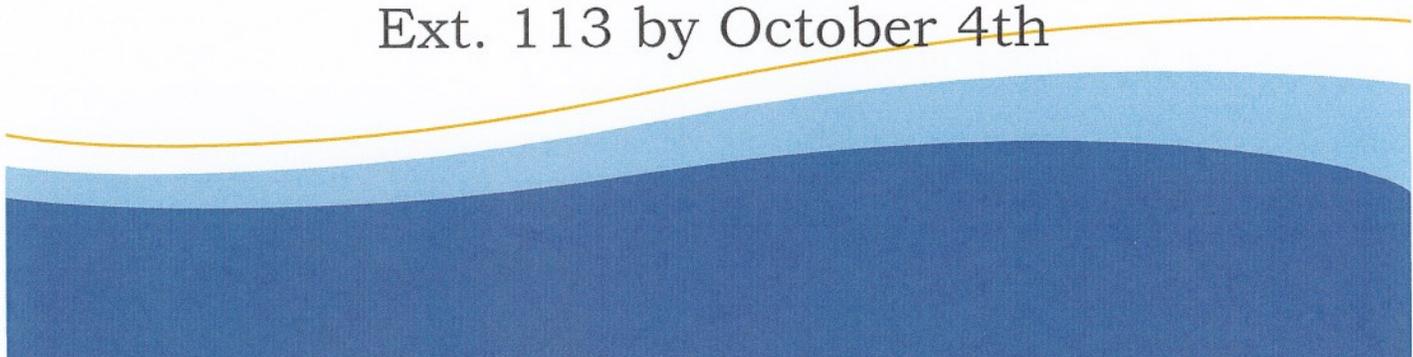
Jackie is a Registered Dietician who will lead us in an inventive and interactive cooking demonstration.

Dinner will be served after.

*Please be sure to list any food allergies

**Please join us Sunday, October 10, 2021
at 3:00 PM
in the Atrium**

RSVP to Kelley at Outreach 631-265-2200
Ext. 113 by October 4th



PARISH OUTREACH

We are in need of parishioners who can donate 2 yards of 100% cotton fabric in bright, colorful solids and prints. Please drop off the fabric at our Outreach Office. Thank you!

Dress a Girl Around the World

This unique organization donates dresses to young, vulnerable girls suffering from extreme poverty around the world. By providing a new dress, you may be changing a young girl's destiny and how she and the world see her. It tells them they are loved by someone and reminds them they are loved by God.

How Can You Help? Two Ways!

We are looking for volunteers who will cut the fabric using the patterns provided. You can do this in the comfort of your own home or with a group. Fabric will be provided.



Are you able to sew and want to share your gift for this project? Outreach is looking for volunteers who are interested in creating these dresses by sewing them in their own homes, using pre-cut fabric.

If you are interested, please call Outreach at 631-265-2200 ext. 113 for further details.

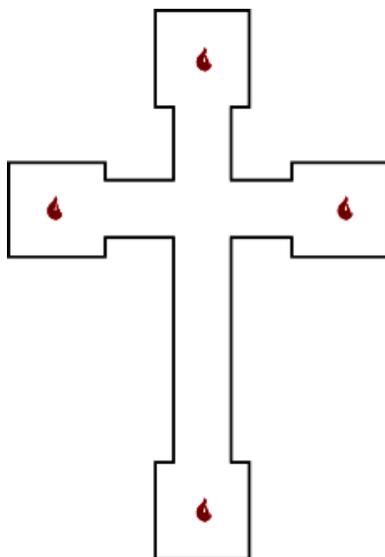


Thank you!



EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

On the weekend of September 18/19 we celebrated Holy Cross' feast day with a blessing of crosses and a barbeque after the 11:30 Mass. Thank you to the Knights of Columbus for hosting the barbeque! Here are some pictures of the celebration!



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.

TAKE A CHANCE!

Fall 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 "Fall 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 September, October and November.
- Drawing will be held November 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!

Fall Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Fall Cash Fling

Name _____
Address _____
Town _____
Phone _____

Fall Cash Fling

Name _____
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