

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!



Behold,
Jesus, the
Lamb of God,
who takes away
the sin of the
world.

John 1:29

Come and pray with us!

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 19, 2020

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.*

WE CELEBRATE EUCHARIST

Monday—Thursday: 9:00 A.M. (Chapel)

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.

Sunday: 8:00 A.M. + 9:30 A.M. + 11:30 A.M.

WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:45 P.M.—4:30 P.M.

or call Father Michael for an appointment.

WE CELEBRATE BAPTISM

Baptisms are generally celebrated twice each month at 1 P.M. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

WE CELEBRATE WEDDINGS

Couples should contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

We are here for you!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + pothc@optonline.net
Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM (closed 12:15-1:00 PM)

PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann
Pastor

Deacon Ralph Rivera
Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Judith Pickel
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Michele Hahn
Pastoral Associate

Mrs. Tricia Clarke
Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Mary Anne Mc Culloch
Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano
Business Manager

Mr. Brian Reich
Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein
Youth Minister

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth
Parish Secretary

Dr. Vincent Mazurek
Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone
Religious Education Secretary
(hcreled@optonline.net)

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

Mr. Roberto Maza
Mr. Vincent Matula
Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra
Weekend Sacristan

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



January 25th/26th

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

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of January 19th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Barbara Shipman (living)
Tue. Fr. Jim McNamara (living)
Wed. Margaret Sousa
Thu. Joseph Nowatius

Saturday, January 25th, 5 PM Mass

Victor Lamarque, Margaret Gunn, Mary Ford-Fauchon, Catherine Henry, Thomas Hughes

Sunday, Jan. 26th, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Giuseppe Pellitteri
11:30 AM Geraldine Overton, Maryann Lohan,
Helen & Walter Tafuri, Vicky & Leon
Yashian

Remembering Our Sick

Almighty and Eternal God, You are the everlasting health of those who believe in You...

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

George V. Daly **Manuela Diaz**
Phil Graziose **Bob Grieco**
Marlene Starr

If you would like to have the name of your loved one listed in our prayers for the sick for 4 weeks, please contact the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 or email to pothc@optonline.net .

Scripture Readings for January 26, 2020



+ Isaiah 8:23-9:3
+ 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17
+ Matthew 4:12-23

Gray Days, or... Maybe Not

by Father Michael

The days of winter can be described as gray because of shorter hours of daylight and winter storms that bring in an abundance of dreary clouds. But, my title has nothing to do with the weather. This week was the second anniversary of my mom's death. The days leading up to that date were a whirlwind of pastoral calls dealing with circumstances of death and dying. As I write this column, we have three funerals scheduled for this week. We average about 40-45 funerals a year, so having three in one week is unusual. I think I celebrated the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick six times recently. On average, I am asked once or twice a month to celebrate the sacrament, in addition to the regular monthly celebration. Six times in a week is more than the norm. I was even called to Good Shepherd Hospice in Port Jefferson, which is where my mother died.

I'm not complaining. All of these occasions were truly moments of grace. It reminds me how privileged I am to have the gift of priesthood and to share in important moments of life with so many families. I would not describe these days as being particularly sad or upsetting. But, I found myself scratching my head and asking what is happening here. Why are there so many of these events happening at this moment? What are you teaching me, Lord?

Two things happened to balance this out. First, last Sunday at the 11:30 Mass we had at least a dozen families come to our Baptism Anniversary Mass to receive a blessing. It was an uplifting celebration. At one point, the chorus of toddler noise was so pronounced that it rattled the rafters. We were all immersed in the sounds of new life, that I couldn't help but smile. Secondly, I simply came to an awareness that in many ways God has healed my heart. Time and time again this week, he brought me into situations that reminded me of painful days, but they did not overwhelm me. I had the strength and focus to minister as I needed to. There was an intensity to these days but also a sense of peace. I had an unexpected sense of balance. As St. Paul says, "*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?*" (1 Cor. 15:55) I felt grounded in the Lord, and that was all I needed.

The cross of Jesus is the predominant symbol we see as we enter our Worship Area. It is an ever-present reminder of the Paschal Mystery, the dying and rising of our Lord. That mystery is mirrored in our lives. It is not a single occasion reserved for the moment of death, but rather it is repeated time and time again as life unfolds. In order to know the gift of new life, we have to work our way through moments of being immersed in pain, surrender, and death. We all have these days, but we are a people renewed in the life of our Lord. Allow that gift to touch your heart. Happy Days! ☺



The Parish Office is closed on Monday, January 20th, for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. There will be a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

A Very Short Survey

. . . . with a Very Long Introduction

One of the realities of Church life is that the number of priests in active ministry continues to decline. Our neighboring parish, St. Joseph's in Ronkonkoma, will be losing a priest this June. They will be going from three resident priests to two. (At one point in time, that parish probably had six priests assigned there.) International priests coming to our Diocese are reducing some of the impact of these declining numbers, but the downward trend continues.

In some extreme circumstances, parishes may need to merge or be combined. For example, in the Five Towns area of Nassau the demographics of that area have changed so significantly that the Catholic representation is only a small fraction of the overall population. In that instance, three parishes may be combined into one. In other areas it may be necessary for neighboring parishes to work closely together in a spirit of cooperation. The two parishes would continue to remain independent parishes, but there may only be one priest to serve two communities.

Don't panic, there are no imminent or drastic changes that are quickly coming to Holy Cross. But, it could very well be that somewhere down the road Holy Cross may not have a resident pastor. Or, if Holy Cross has a resident pastor, he may also be responsible for the sacramental needs of another parish. There are no specific or immediate plans for our parish, but something like this may happen in the future.

Pastors have been asked to begin to raise this vital issue within our parishes so people can begin to think about the possibilities. Additionally, pastors have been asked to begin conversations within Deaneries (small geographic groupings of 8 or 9 parishes) to look at scheduling of Masses and other sacraments. Are we currently using the priest personnel we have in the best way possible to serve the most number of people? For example, does it make sense for every parish to have a 9:00AM daily Mass? Might it be more beneficial for one parish to have an early morning Mass and another have one at noon? Again, there are no specific plans to uproot and change life here at Holy Cross. But, we want to begin to look if there are possibilities to consider if circumstances were to change. To that end, I ask for your input regarding the following two questions:

-
- ◆ Is there a time during the week that you would prefer daily Mass to be celebrated and that you would likely attend?
 - ◆ Is there a different/additional day and time that you would like to see the Sacrament of Reconciliation offered?
 - ◆ Please list any other suggestions/comments related to this matter:

There is no need for you to put your name on this survey.

Please do not fill out this survey if you already responded to the Daily Mass Survey that was taken before Christmas among those who regularly attend daily Mass.

Return to Parish Office or drop in collection basket.

Fr. Michael



The Parish of the Holy Cross

is hosting our Second Annual

Valentine Sweetheart Dance

For all Kindergarten through Level 5 Students and their
Designated Sweetheart (e.g. Parent, Grandparent, Sibling, Aunt, Uncle,
Godparent only)

Date: Friday, February 7th

Time: 7pm - 9pm

Place: Parish of the Holy Cross Atrium

Cost: Free Will Offering

Best party attire suggested

Come join us for dancing, refreshments and fun!

We will have a DJ, Photo Booth and Candy Table

Please RSVP by February 1st

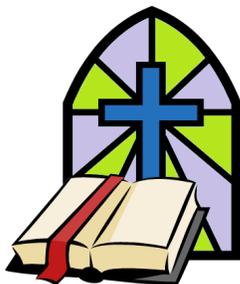
631-265-2200 or hcreledaoptonline.net

We look forward to seeing you there!



LITURGY BYTES

Winter Ordinary Time



Now that the last of the wreaths and flowers of Christmas leave our worship space, the Church moves into the all too familiar season of Ordinary Time or as I prefer to call this brief interlude – WINTER ORDINARY TIME (6 weeks long). Each year we spend a few weeks of continuing our study on the life of Jesus in its fullness via the lens of the Gospel of St. Matthew.

The color for this season is that very familiar green – a color of hope which we will notice on the altar and vestments of the clergy celebrating Mass each weekend. However, there will be one weekend when a solemnity (a special feast) will take place changing the color to white. Does anyone know which feast I am referring too? You can always “google” it!

I have friends who have said that Ordinary Time is like a long boring school year. It is hard to hear the same stories with new ears. We all try to listen attentively as the Gospel is being proclaimed. But, how many of us once we hear the first few lines say, “Oh yes, the calling of the disciples, I know this one,” and then tune out? Guilty? I know I have been on many occasions.

However, we can always try again. For a moment, let’s wonder what was going through the mind of Cephas the fisherman, or what Mary from Magdala was feeling when they both heard Jesus’ voice for the first time. After all, we do know the end of the story. However, they did not. What was it about Him that made them leave everything? What transformed Mary and Cephas into the Apostle of the Apostles and St. Peter? What draws us in? What keeps us (you and me) going? Here’s some food for thought when we feel we’ve heard it all before! Will you join me in focusing more this Ordinary season?

Have a blessed week!

~~~~Michele Hahn

# PARISH NEWS

## Catechist Workshop



*If you are preparing students for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, how well do you understand this beautiful Sacrament?*

Primarily for Level 2 Catechists (others are welcome), please join us on two Thursdays: January 23 & 30 at 7 PM in the Fr. Joe Room.

Please sign up by emailing *Michele Hahn* at:  
[Mhahnholycross11@gmail.com](mailto:Mhahnholycross11@gmail.com)

## Special Collection



*This weekend, at the offertory, we will also be collecting for **Regional School Support**.*

*Thank you for your support of this important collection!*

## Holy Cross Seniors

Our Holy Cross Senior Group is always looking for new members to join them for an afternoon of fun and socializing. You are invited to stop in and meet some new friends. The meeting is held in the atrium of the church from 11:30AM to 2:30PM. **Our next meeting is Wednesday, January 22nd.** We hope to see you there!

## Praying the Rosary

Join us as we **Pray the Rosary** in the chapel at 10:30AM on the last Sunday of each month. We will pray for our friends and loved ones who have fallen away from the Church. Join us on **Sunday, January 26th!**

## Children's Memorial Garden

*If you brought a special Christmas ornament to decorate the trees in the Children's Memorial Garden, please come pick it up in the Parish Office. Thank you.*



## Statement of Contributions

A statement of your contributions to Holy Cross for the year 2019 will be sent to you upon request. If you would like a copy, please print your name and address on the form below and drop in the collection basket.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for  
your support!**

# YOUTH MINISTRY

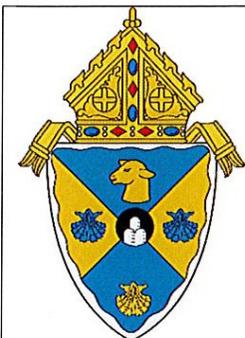


Hello everyone! Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games? Do you want to build more of an understanding about yourself and your faith? If you answered "Yes!" to any one of those questions, then you **MUST** check out the **Holy Cross Youth Group**. You will be glad 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. **Here are our upcoming events:**

- **January 19th: No Youth Group Meeting due to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.**
- **January 26th: Youth Night from 6 to 8PM. Come join us!**

So, if you are thinking about coming to the church to see what we are all about, do it! You will not regret it. Come with a friend or family member, and join us as we continue to grow in the endless love of Christ. If you have any questions or concerns, or if you are thinking about joining us and you would like more information, then please do not hesitate to contact Allie Roecklein, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, at [hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com](mailto:hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com) or call the parish office. Thank you!

# DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

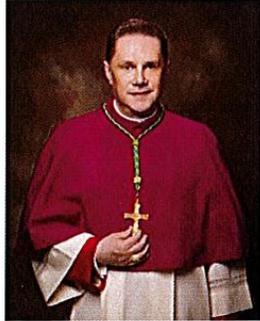


The Diocese of Rockville Centre  
celebrates  
"Sunday of the Word of God"  
January 25-26, 2020

Clergy and laity are invited to participate in the vicariate celebrations of the new celebration instituted by Pope Francis, "Sunday of the Word of God," which will be celebrated around the world for the first time on Sunday, January 26, 2020. Parishes will have their own celebrations at Masses; our auxiliary bishops will offer the people of the diocese a chance to celebrate this special day on a bigger scale. Please join us for one of these inspiring celebrations!

# DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE continued

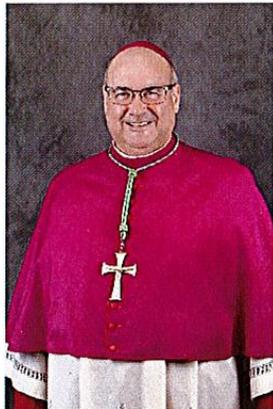
Western Vicariate  
Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski



Church of Saint Aidan  
505 Willis Avenue  
Williston Park, NY 11596  
Sunday, January 26, 3:00PM

Bishop Andrzej will be joined by the music group *Ignis Angelicus* as he explores the power and meaning of God's Word today.

Central Vicariate  
Bishop Richard Henning

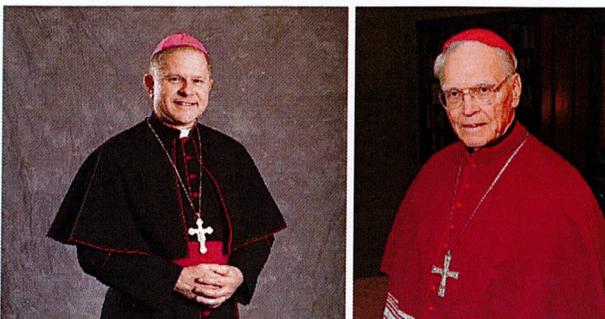


Church of St. Hugh of Lincoln  
21 East Ninth Street  
Huntington Station, NY 11746  
Saturday/Sábado, January 25, 7:00PM  
*Prayer, Worship, & Holy Hour*  
*Oraciones / adoración*  
*In Spanish/En Español*

+++

Church of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs  
53 Prospect Road  
Centerport, NY 11721  
Saturday, January 25, 1:00PM  
"How we hear & read the Word of God"  
-Talks given by Bishop Henning, Fr.  
Robert Ketcham, and Fr. Joseph Scolaro

Eastern Vicariate  
Bishops Robert Coyle & Emil Wcela



Church of Saint John the Evangelist  
246 St. John's Place  
Riverhead, NY 11901  
Sunday, January 26, 3:00PM

Afternoon of Prayer with  
Special Guest Speaker -  
Bishop Emil Wcela.  
Former rector and scripture professor at  
the Seminary of the Immaculate  
Conception

# CASH CALENDAR



*Parish of the Holy Cross  
January 2020*

**Happy Anniversary  
Holy Cross!**

| Sun             | Mon               | Tue                              | Wed        | Thu        | Fri        | Sat        |
|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| \$10 Per Chance | 31 Chances to Win | \$50 Per Day<br>\$500 January 21 | 1<br>\$50  | 2<br>\$50  | 3<br>\$50  | 4<br>\$50  |
| 5<br>\$50       | 6<br>\$50         | 7<br>\$50                        | 8<br>\$50  | 9<br>\$50  | 10<br>\$50 | 11<br>\$50 |
| 12<br>\$50      | 13<br>\$50        | 14<br>\$50                       | 15<br>\$50 | 16<br>\$50 | 17<br>\$50 | 18<br>\$50 |
| 19<br>\$50      | 20<br>\$50        | 21<br>\$500                      | 22<br>\$50 | 23<br>\$50 | 24<br>\$50 | 25<br>\$50 |
| 26<br>\$50      | 27<br>\$50        | 28<br>\$50                       | 29<br>\$50 | 30<br>\$50 | 31<br>\$50 |            |

*Cash Calendar, JANUARY 2020*

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*Cash Calendar, JANUARY 2020*

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*Cash Calendar, JANUARY 2020*

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# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

|                                                       |                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Monday, January 20th</b>                           | <b>9 AM</b>           |
| • MORNING MASS                                        | Chapel                |
| <i>(The Parish Office is closed for the holiday.)</i> |                       |
| <b>Tuesday, January 21st</b>                          | <b>10 AM</b>          |
| • IN STITCHES                                         | Fr. Joe Room          |
| • LITURGY TEAM                                        | 7PM Fr. Joe Room      |
| <b>Wednesday, January 22nd</b>                        | <b>11:30AM-2:30PM</b> |
| • SENIORS                                             | Atrium                |
| • BAPTISM PREP CLASS                                  | 7:30PM Fr. Joe Room   |
| <b>Thursday, January 23rd</b>                         | <b>7 PM</b>           |
| • RCIA                                                | Sacristy              |
| • CATECHIST WORKSHOP                                  | Fr. Joe Room          |
| <b>Saturday, January 25th</b>                         | <b>11 AM</b>          |
| • PRE-CANA COMMITTEE MEETING                          | Atrium                |
| <b>Sunday, January 26th</b>                           | <b>10 - 11 AM</b>     |
| • REL. ED. FAMILY PROGRAM                             | Fr. Joe Room          |
| • PRAY THE ROSARY                                     | 10:30AM Chapel        |
| • YOUTH NIGHT                                         | 6-8PM Atrium          |

# PRAY FOR HEALING

## A 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

# COMMUNITY NEWS



February 26 - April 5  
**40 DAYS FOR LIFE.**

Please join us for a  
**Presentation &  
General Informational Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

7:00 p.m. - Presentation, 7:30 p.m. - Q&A  
St. Patrick R.C. Church  
280 East Main St., Smithtown NY 11787

**This 40DFL Lenten Campaign is fully endorsed by the Diocese of Rockville Centre.**  
Come learn what participating can do for you, your family, your parish, and our community!

[40dfsmithtown@gmail.com](mailto:40dfsmithtown@gmail.com)  
[www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)



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