

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!



Come and pray with us!

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 13, 2019

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



October 19th/20th

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

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of October 13th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Bob DeFilippis
Tue. Edmund Sypytkowski (living)
Wed. Lisa Tauger (living)
Thu. Jeanne Marie Malley (living) & Paul Malley

Saturday, October 19th, 5 PM Mass

Henri-Robert Lamarque, Joseph Kelleher, Regina Kirk, Susan Duke, Joseph & Rosa Borriello, Monica Seidel

Sunday, Oct. 20th, 29th Sun. in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM Stasia & Patrick Egan, Ewa Sypytkowska, Joan O'Hanlon, Pete Cizek, Vilma Diaz
11:30 AM Margaret & Joseph Grecco

Remembering Our Sick

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

George V. Daly	Phil Graziouse
Peggy Grieco	Doreen Hau
Jeanne Marie Malley	Santamaria family
Marlene Starr	Lisa Tauger
Richard Zak	

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 October 20, 2019



+ Exodus 17:8-13
 + 2 Timothy 3:14-4:2
 + Luke 18:1-8

Preparing for Thanksgiving

by Father Michael

The gospel reading for this weekend is the story of the healing of the lepers. Ten men who were afflicted seek to find Jesus, and when they do so, they ask for healing. Jesus heals all ten. But, only one of them returns to Jesus to thank him for the gift of new life that he received. Traditionally, this is the gospel reading that is used on Thanksgiving Day. Hearing it this weekend helps to create a theme of gratitude weeks before we come to the holiday.

This weekend, we are reminded to look at our lives and to embrace the blessings we have been given. In what ways have we encountered Jesus and recognized the ways in which he has blessed us with friendship, healing, forgiveness, a call to discipleship, etc.? Sometimes we can readily identify how God has touched our lives. Other times, it requires some reflection for us to appreciate the more subtle ways in which God has graced us with His gifts. When I was on retreat last week, I was overcome in gratitude in remembering the wondrous ways that God has spoken to me throughout my life.

Unfortunately, sometimes it takes losing something or even the threat of losing it to make us realize how blessed we are. One of the great blessings of my life is this parish community of Holy Cross. Last June, I was completing my first term of six years as Pastor and was looking forward to being renewed for a second term. It is common practice within our diocese for a pastor to serve two terms in the same parish. Everything seemed to be unfolding on pace for me to receive my second six-year term here. Then, one day in May I got a somewhat ambiguous/ominous e-mail from the Bishop's Office. The way in which the message was written led me to believe I was being transferred. It took about 6 hours to clarify what was happening. In fact, there were no problems. But, fear took hold, and I thought I might be losing something precious in my life. That afternoon was not very pleasant, but having gone through it makes me appreciate all the more what I have.

When someone celebrates Reconciliation with me, 95% of the time I offer them the same penance; say three Our Fathers. For many years, I gave the instruction to offer those prayers in thanksgiving for the blessings of their life. More recently, I have changed it to offering the prayers for peace in the world. Maybe, is there wisdom in switching back? A true spirit of gratitude becomes an umbrella that embraces all things.

Prepare for Thanksgiving now. That does not mean you have to start mashing the potatoes, but rather be mindful of the blessings of your life. I suppose one day of gratitude is not a bad thing. But, living our lives in an on-going way with the realization that we have been richly blessed allows us to continually acknowledge God's presence.



The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, October 14th, for Columbus Day.
There will be a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.

LITURGY BYTES

Thought for the week: “The Mass is ended...” – Mission Impossible?



Concluding this week with our series about the Mass, we come upon the dismissal rite. You may be asking, what does this dismissal mean for us? Let's see what the Catechism of the Catholic Church has to say. The CCC explains that “the liturgy in which the mystery of salvation is accomplished concludes with the sending forth (mission) of the faithful, so that they may fulfill God's will in their daily lives” (#1332).

I can recall when my children were young, and I breathed a sigh of relief when the dismissal words were proclaimed by either the Priest or Deacon! We made it through without too many interruptions, and now we could go home and the children could play and be noisy! However, as years passed on, I started to begin to understand what those words really meant and focused on one word in particular “go!”

I began to understand that we are being dismissed to carry on our mission – to be missionaries – to take the Christ we have received in Word and in Communion out with us into the world. This mission is concerned with an authentic life lived in accord with the Gospel, striving for holiness and spiritual growth in prayer. In other words, we are called to bring the Gospel message to our families, neighbors and world so that we, too, have an important role in being missionary disciples by the faithful witness of our lives.

So, the next time you hear “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord,” remember the emphasis is on the word GO! The Church is reminding us that we are not called to remain huddled together in the Church, but to go out and carry out the mission of the Church in our everyday lives. Is it “Mission Impossible”? Not really. You just need to be willing and trust in what was started at your Baptism.

As I have seen in my short time here at the Parish of the Holy Cross, this mission to “go forth” is embraced by so many wonderful people who truly take this mission seriously. Many of these “missionaries” have developed the life of this worshipping community. However, there is always room for more!

If you are interested in sharing in the work of the people, the Liturgy, our Liturgy/Environment team would welcome your assistance. Please contact me at: mhahnholycross11@gmail.com for more details. Have a blessed week and remember GO FORTH!!!

Michele Hahn

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Catechism

Thank you to all the families who have re-registered their children in our program. We still have families who have not signed up. If you still need to register, please do so as soon as possible. Classes have been formed and we cannot guarantee your child a placement if we do not have your registration form.

Levels 1 through 7 will begin classes the week of October 21st. Level 1 letters went home last week inviting all parents to an informational meeting being held the week of October 15th. Parents will get an overview of the year and be able to pick up the books for their child.

Level 8 will begin classes the week of November 4th. All Level 8 Catechists, parents and students are invited to a meeting at the end of October which will outline the Level 8 year and where students and parents will receive books and an information packet. Letters have been sent through the mail with the meeting dates and times, and emails will be sent the week before.

We are still in need of Catechists. If you think God is calling you to the ministry of faith formation, please call the Religious Education Office ASAP! Thank you for considering sharing your faith with the children and young people of our parish.



Halloween Party



Parish of the Holy Cross

Friday, October 25th - 7pm to 9pm

Levels 5 through 8

Costumes Required

Come join us for the Monster Mash

And

Some SPOOKY fun and games!!

RSVP: 631-265-2200 or hereled@optonline.net



PARISH OUTREACH

“BEING CHRIST”

“COME TO ME ALL OF YOU WHO ARE BURDENED AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST...”

These comforting words greet all who enter the doors of Holy Cross Church. They are the foundation of the mission of Parish Outreach, which is to “Be Christ” to those who are burdened by serious illness, financial instability, loss of a job and other crisis situations. Our ability to do that is only possible through the giving spirit of the parishioners of Holy Cross. **We thank you so very much for your consistent support of Parish Outreach and its programs.**

As we draw near to the holiday season (the busiest time for Parish Outreach), we invite you to consider these suggestions on ways to join us in “Being Christ” for our neighbors who continue to struggle in their life journey.



1. Monetary “basket” donations (cash, check or supermarket gift cards) will be appreciated to help defray the expenses of our **Thanksgiving Basket Program**. You can mark your envelope “Thanksgiving” and drop it in the collection basket.



2. Volunteer shoppers are needed to purchase and package a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family. You will be given a menu/shopping list and gift cards to cover the cost. We anticipate about 60 baskets will be provided to families in our community this year. **If you would like to do a basket, you can sign up after any of the Masses on the weekend of Nov. 9/10 in the rear of the atrium.**



3. During last year’s winter, Outreach was able to provide 100 gallons of emergency oil to some households as a direct result of your generosity. If you would like to help keep a family warm this winter by making a donation, please mark “**Fuel Assistance**” on your envelope.



4. Participate in our **Christmas “Be An Angel” program**. Again this year, we will provide gift cards to the families Outreach assists throughout the year and gifts for several other agencies. This program will run from November 16th through December 8th. Future bulletins will contain important information on this year’s Christmas Angel program.

If you have questions about any of the above, please call the Outreach office. We sincerely appreciate the support we continuously receive from our parishioners. **We are truly blessed with a loving and generous community!**

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.

Here are some pictures from our last Youth Group meeting on October 6th. We discussed God's signs and how **NOTHING IS EVER IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!**



And, here are our upcoming youth events! Take a look:

- We will not be meeting this weekend due to the Columbus Day holiday.
- Sunday, October 20: We will have a fun Youth Night from 6 to 8PM in the atrium. Come join us!
- Sunday, October 27: Join us for a fun and easy night at our Halloween Party from 6 to 8PM in the atrium!

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 or call the parish office. Thank you!

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

To commemorate the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, on Saturday, October 5th, we had the Blessing of the Animals in our courtyard. Here are some pictures of our precious pets!



LITURGICAL MINISTERS



Attention: Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Let us know if you would like to continue in your ministry for the 2019-2020 Liturgical Year and, also, if you would like to serve on Holy Days. Your dedication to the ministry is most appreciated by the Parish. Please complete the form below and place in the Sunday collection basket or return to the Parish Office on or before October 20th. Also, please let us know if you are a “snow bird” and need to be taken off the schedule for a period of time. **If at any other time during the year you need to stop your service, please contact the Parish Office.**

RECOMMITMENT

I wish to continue in my ministry for the 2019-2020 year.

YES _____ NO _____ I understand I may return to my ministry at any time once I have informed the Parish Office.

I am an: **Altar Server, Lector, Usher, Extraordinary Minister**

Preferred Masses _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please ✓ if you are an EM and you would like to bring the Eucharist to the homebound.

&

Are you available to minister on Holy Days?

(Solemnity of Mary, Ascension Thursday, Assumption, Immaculate Conception)

YES _____ NO _____

PARISH NEWS

Special Collections

*This weekend, at the offertory, we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund.*

*Next weekend, we will also be collecting for **World Mission Sunday**. Pope Francis reminds us of our baptismal call to be Christ's Church on mission in the world. Let us respond to that call, through our prayers and personal sacrifices for our brothers and sisters in the Missions—places like Uganda where people face food uncertainty and violence...in the Philippines where local clergy face martyrdom...in Oceania where peoples' livelihoods are threatened by climate change...and in remote regions of Latin America where people are hearing the Gospel for the first time.*

Thank you for your support of these important collections!

Gluten Free Hosts

For parishioners who have Celiac Disease or a gluten sensitivity, Holy Cross has gluten free hosts. If you would like to receive a gluten free host during Communion, please inform the Sacristan prior to Mass.

Hearing Devices

For parishioners who have difficulty hearing, Holy Cross has individual devices which can amplify sound. They are simple to use and work for those who wear hearing aids and those who do not. If you are interested in using one of these devices, please see the Sacristan or an Usher prior to Mass.

Remember "Kevin Bacon"

Don't forget to feed "Kevin Bacon" your quarters when you come to Mass on Sundays! Your donation benefits Heifer International.



Thank You!

We would like to extend a special THANK-YOU to the "In Stitches" group for their very generous donation, from the Fall Festival, for our Religious Education department!!!



Archdiocese for the Military Services

Every three years, the Archdiocese for the Military Services (AMC) requests financial help to provide pastoral care for over 1.5 million Catholics on ships, in combat, on bases and in 153 VA hospitals. The AMC receives no funding from the U.S. Government or U.S. Military in support of their effort to provide this care. If you would like to assist them, there is more information including envelopes on the bulletin table in the atrium. Thank you for your consideration to this important cause!



31st Annual Mass For Deceased Children

*Let the children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to these.
Matthew 19:14*

All are welcome

**Saturday, November 16, 2019
12:30 p.m.**

PRESIDER MSGR. WILLIAM KOENIG
St. Agnes Cathedral
29 Quealy Place, Rockville Centre, New York

Come early to inscribe your child's name in the
"Book of Families"
No Registration is required.

For more information contact
Lucy Creed, Associate Director
516-678-5800 x236 | lcreed@drvc.org

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

**20
19** CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

Supporting *Dramatic Missionary Growth* in Our Community



Witnessing Forgiving Loving Helping Teaching Igniting Evangelizing
Teaching Igniting Evangelizing Forgiving Loving Helping Witnessing

You can make a difference in the lives of those around us by making a gift to this year's Catholic Ministries Appeal

Every Gift Counts!

A gift of \$25 may help pay the gas for a Meals-On-Wheels van to deliver food for a day.

A gift of \$50 from an emergency fund may help pay the electric bill in a cold winter month for a family in need.

A gift of \$100 may help care for a newborn infant in Catholic Charities Regina Residence.

A gift of \$250 may help subsidize a home for an adult who is developmentally disabled.

A gift of \$1,000 may help support a Seminarian's education.

Because of you, every year we are able to serve more than 600,000 people in our Long Island Community. This support enables our children to continue to receive the gift of spiritual formation, sacramental preparation, and quality education. It allows seminarians and lay leaders to fulfill their calling to serve the community. With your support Catholic Charities can maintain its services for the poor and disadvantaged, and we can continue to reach out to our young people and others to find the best ways to guide and pass on our faith from generation to generation.

For more information about the Catholic Ministries Appeal, please visit CatholicMinistriesAppeal.org or call 516-678-5800 ext. 296.

Make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish Parish of the Holy Cross-176 Pledge: \$ _____

Name _____ Down payment: \$ _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

CASH CALENDAR



Parish of the Holy Cross
October 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 \$50	2 \$50	3 \$50	4 \$50	5 \$50
6 \$50	7 \$50	8 \$50	9 \$50	10 \$50	11 \$50	12 \$50
13 \$50	14 \$50	15 \$50	16 \$50	17 \$50	18 \$50	19 \$50
20 \$50	21 \$50	22 \$50	23 \$50	24 \$50	25 \$50	26 \$50
27 \$50	28 \$50	29 \$50	30 \$50	31 \$500	\$10 PER CHANCE ~ 31 CHANCES TO WIN. \$50 PER DAY ~\$500 ON OCTOBER 31 ~HALLOWEEN	

Cash Calendar, OCTOBER 2019

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TOWN _____
PHONE _____

Cash Calendar, OCTOBER 2019

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Cash Calendar, OCTOBER 2019

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Cash Calendar, OCTOBER 2019

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Cash Calendar, OCTOBER 2019

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
TOWN _____
PHONE _____

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Saturday, October 12th	8-10 AM
• VEGETABLE GARDEN CLEAN-UP	Vegetable Gdn.
Sunday, October 13th	10:30 AM
• HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE MTG.	Conference Rm.
Monday, October 14th	9 AM
• MORNING MASS	Chapel
<i>(The Parish Office is closed for the holiday.)</i>	
Tuesday, October 15th	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• LEVEL 1 PARENT MTG. 1:30 or 7PM	Atrium
• STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 7PM	Sacristy
Wednesday, October 16th	11:30AM-2:30PM
• SENIORS	Atrium
• ALTAR SERVER TRAINING 4:30PM	Worship Area
• JOURNEY WITH JESUS 7PM	Atrium/Chapel
Thursday, October 17th	10 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY	Fr. Joe Room
• LEV. 1 PARENT MTG. 10:30AM or 7PM	Atrium
• RCIA 7PM	Sacristy
Sunday, October 20th	1 PM
• BAPTISMS	Worship Area
• YOUTH NIGHT 6-8PM	Atrium



The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS
OCTOBER 2019 THROUGH MARCH 2020
REGISTER ONLINE WWW.DRVC-FAITH.ORG

RCIA Level I

St. Martin of Tours, Bethpage

Thursdays, October 17, 24, 31, and November 14, 2019
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Bereavement Facilitator Training Level II

St. Rosalie Parish, Hampton Bays

Saturdays, October 19 and 26, 2019
from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

31st Annual Mass For Deceased Children

St. Agnes Cathedral, Rockville Centre

Saturday, November 16, 2019
12:30 p.m.

Catechist Training Level II

St. James, Setauket

Tuesdays, March 10, 17, 24, and 31, 2020
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Bereavement Conference

St. Frances de Chantal, Wantagh

Saturday, March 21, 2020
8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For more information, workshops, or to register online,
please visit drvc-faith.org/event/

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



Worldwide Religious Freedom Abuses

www.cffor.org

Christians continue to be the most persecuted religious group in the world with significant increases in 2019. Watchdog groups, Release International and Open Doors, have particular concern for believers in China, India, & Nigeria.

China: In 2018, China was on track to contain the world's largest Christian population by 2030, thanks to a surge in underground house churches. The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) estimated the number of Protestants at anywhere from 58-115 million, and Catholics range from 10-12 million. About 1/3 of Christians attend the government sanctioned church groups: The Protestant Three-Self Church and the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Church. Still, Christians face growing repression and China is ranked as a country where it's most difficult and dangerous to practice Christianity.

- Over 2,000 crosses have been burned & ripped down and many churches demolished.
- The Communist regime is now demanding churches replace postings of the Ten Commandments with sayings of Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- Some sanctioned churches require pastors to incorporate communist ideology in their sermons.
- Some congregations are threatened to be blacklisted, meaning travel restrictions, schooling and future employment of their children will be impeded.
- By 2020, 600 million surveillance cameras will monitor all citizens, believers, and religious activities such as who buys Bibles, etc.
- Chinese Christians will only be able to purchase the Communism-friendly version of the Bible.
- There is a nationwide effort to exalt President Xi who says that religion must be guided by the party to adapt to socialist society.

In light of this ongoing crackdown on religious freedom, house church leaders are going back to underground practices.

Today, Christianity is being labeled as a "Western Ideology" that must be resisted at all costs by the Chinese people.

(nytimes.com, 12/25/18; persecution.org, 4/30/19; newsmax.com, 3/9/18; faithwire.com, 9/18/19; townhall.com, 9/23/18; christianpost.com-persecution)



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