

The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

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LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!

THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*



“Be patient, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord.” James 5:7

Come and pray with us!

Third Sunday of Advent – December 15, 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 BAPTISM

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

WE CELEBRATE RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 3:45 P.M.—4:30 P.M.

or call Father Michael for an appointment.

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



December 21st/22nd

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

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of December 15th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Agnes Shields
Tue. William Scarola
Wed. Edmund Sypytkowski (living)
Thu. Bernard & Stella Lamb

Saturday, December 21st, 5 PM Mass

Michael & Mikey LaVecchia, Giovanni Laboy, Mary Hall, Levasseur family, Salvatore Grippo, Ewa Sypytkowska

Sunday, December 22nd, Fourth Sun. of Advent

8:00 AM People of the Parish
9:30 AM George Rivera
11:30 AM Victor Lamarque, Anne Geisel, Agnes Shields, Vincent DeStefano, Letizia Antunez, Vilma Diaz, Victor Diaz, Maria Eannacone

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	Phil Graziuse
Jean Kuhl	Lorraine Lombardo
Shirley Nocerino	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 December 22, 2019



+ Isaiah 7:10-14
 + Romans 1:1-7
 + Matthew 1:18-24

Joyful Sunday

by Father Michael

Traditionally, the third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday. It is meant to be a day of joy in the midst of this holy season of Advent. Waiting need not be a difficult experience. In fact, when it is done with purpose it enhances the experience. Immediate gratification is not always the best path. I remember as a young child, the excitement and anticipation of Christmas were almost better than the day itself. This joyful waiting can be part of our spiritual journey as well. Although these days can be busy and hectic, I pray you find the ability to seek and celebrate joy in your life.

This Thursday Holy Cross looked like Santa's North Pole Annex. We distributed all of the items that were purchased as well as the many gift cards that were donated. In addition to our own program, we were also able to share some of our gifts with other organizations that are in need during these weeks. Many thanks to all of you who once again made this program a great success. Because of your generosity, over 60 families received gifts. Over \$10,000 worth of gift cards were given. Thank you also to our Parish Outreach Office and volunteers. Between the Thanksgiving Basket Program and the Christmas Angel Program, these become very busy days. Despite there being mountains of food and gifts to process, everything got to where it needed to be. I am most appreciative to all involved.

This afternoon our Youth Group is visiting the Nesconset Nursing Home. This is a beautiful tradition which takes place every year. I am sure the residents are appreciative of the youthful energy and good wishes our young people bring. Thank you to our Core Group who work so hard in providing our youth with a program that is both fun and rooted in service.

I try to embrace the spirit of Advent during these weeks. I do my best to wait for Christmas before I fully celebrate that day. For example, I do not open my Christmas cards until after the 25th. I do not decorate too early in December. This probably goes back to my childhood; we used to wait until Christmas Eve to put up and decorate our tree. I don't think that is a practice embraced by too many these days. At this point, however, I must admit that my tree is up. I had a little decorating party with some of my former colleagues from St. John the Baptist High School. Each evening I spend a bit of time putting out other decorations that make the house look more festive. By the time Christmas Eve rolls around, everything should be in place.

Please take note of the Christmas schedule. The Masses on Christmas Day are different than they are on Sundays. Also, take note of the additional opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this week. Enjoy and make holy these final days before Christmas.



Christmas 2019 Schedule
The Nativity of the Lord

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 21st, 2019: 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 22nd, 2019

8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24th, 2019

4:00 pm, 6:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses

Wednesday, December 25th, 2019

8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon

Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31st, 2019: 5:00 pm

Wednesday, January 1st, 2020: 10:00 am

Confessions

Saturdays in Advent: 3:45 pm to 4:30 pm

***Monday, December 16th, 2019 after 9:00 am Mass &
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm***

Monday, December 23rd, 2019 after 9:00 am Mass

LITURGY BYTES

GAUDETE SUNDAY

The third Sunday of Advent is a day of joy in the midst of our spiritual preparations for Christmas. Traditionally, it is called Gaudete Sunday, meaning rejoice. We sense a joyful anticipation that the fulfillment of God's plan for us is near.

On a practical level, we light 3 candles this weekend: one pink and 2 purple candles on the parish wreath. You will notice that the priest wears a pink/rose colored vestment for Mass.



On Gaudete Sunday and always, let us patiently prepare for the Lord and find joy in salvation in Christ. Let us provide healing that is needed in the world and model our lives after Christ. Have a blessed week.

~~Michele Hahn

YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello everyone! If you are in high school and have received the Sacrament of Confirmation, come check out the **Holy Cross Youth Group!** 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:

- **December 15: Youth Day Event!** We will attend the 11:30 Mass and then, after Mass, visit the Nesconset Nursing Home to deliver the gifts we wrapped the week before.
- **December 22: Christmas Break—No Youth Group meeting**
- **December 29: Christmas Break—No Youth Group meeting**
- **January 5: Youth Group meetings resume!!!**



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 hcyoungroup15@gmail.com or call the parish office. Thank you!

BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

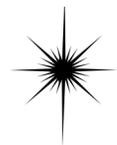
We are celebrating *Bambinelli Sunday* here at Holy Cross this weekend, **December 14th & 15th**, at each of our Masses. All, young and old alike, have been invited to bring their figure of the Christ Child for a special blessing.

May Jesus fill your hearts and homes with peace, love, and joy!

CHRISTMAS MASS INTENTIONS

In lieu of individual announced intentions at the Christmas Masses, there are cards in the Atrium for you to write your special intentions on.

These cards will be placed on the Altar at all the Christmas Masses.



CASH CALENDAR



Parish of the Holy Cross
December 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 \$500	26 \$50	27 \$50	28 \$50
29 \$50	30 \$50	31 \$50	\$10 Per Chance ~ 31 Chances to Win \$50 Per Day ~ \$500 on December 25, Christmas Day			

Cash Calendar, DECEMBER, 2019

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
 PHONE _____

Cash Calendar, DECEMBER, 2019

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Cash Calendar, DECEMBER, 2019

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Cash Calendar, DECEMBER, 2019

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MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15th		11:30 Mass
• YOUTH GROUP		Worship Area
• YOUTH DAY EVENT	1-3:30PM	Nursing Home
• BAPTISMS	1PM	Worship Area
Monday, December 16th	9:30-10AM & 6:30-7:30PM	Chapel
• CONFESSION		Chapel
• SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES	4-6 PM	Atrium
• FUN COMMITTEE	7PM	Fr. Joe Room
Tuesday, December 17th		10 AM
• IN STITCHES		Fr. Joe Room
Wednesday, December 18th		1:15 PM
• AWAKENING FAITH		Atrium, Chapel
Thursday, December 19th		10 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY		Fr. Joe Room

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

CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN



We invite those who have lost a child to bring at any time to the Children's Memorial Garden, a special Christmas ornament to decorate the trees.

May this season bring you and your family the peace of our Lord.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

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

Thank you for your support of this important collection!



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