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!



"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:6-7

Come and pray with us!

3rd Sunday of Advent - December 16, 2018

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

Ms. Kathleen Reid

Director of Religious Education

Mrs. Mary Anne Mc Culloch Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Judith Pickel Pastoral Associate

Deacon Ralph Rivera

Pastoral Minister

Mrs. Tricia Clarke Business Manager

Mr. Brian Reich

Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Salvatore Finocchiaro Coordinator of Youth Ministries

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth Parish Secretary

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

Mrs. Elizabeth Shea P/T Office Assistant

Dr. Vincent Mazurek

Music Minister

Mr. Roberto Maza Mr. Vincent Matula Custodians Mrs. Mary Pannone

Religious Education Secretary

(hcreled@optonline.net)

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra Weekend Sacristan

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses



December 22nd/23rd

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

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Please pray for the sick of our parish, their families and caregivers:

Maria Conte Paul Mallev Maryann League Stephen Reilly

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.

Scripture Readings for December 23, 2018



+ Micah 5:1-4

+ Hebrews 10:5-10

+ Luke 1:39-45

Mass Intentions Schedule

Week of December 16, 9AM Mass

Mon. Brian O'Hanlon Tue. William Scarola

Wed. Jeanette Foy & Charles Haner (living)

Thu. Robert Tavis

Saturday, December 22nd, 5 PM Mass

Michael LaVecchia, Mikey LaVecchia, Mary Hall, James Hall, Sam Mason, Joseph Nicoll

Sunday, December 23rd, 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Bernard Cornell

9:30 AM Victor Lamarque, Michael Corcoran,

Eleanor Rizzo, Paul Pastina, Peggy Fitzgerald, Josephine Giorgio, John

Bryan Sr.

11:30 AM People of the Parish



Banns of Marriage Second Time

Nicole Foronjy & William Knipper Jr.

Joyful Waiting

by Father Michael

This third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called Gaudete Sunday; translated, it means a day to rejoice. While Advent can have a serious tone to it, it is meant to be different than Lent. Our time of waiting calls us to be people filled with hope and joy as we await the celebration of our Savior's birth. I pray these days are rich and prayerful for you.

While the universal Church celebrates this day with joy, there is a note of sadness here at Holy Cross. Sal Finocchiaro has been serving as our Youth Minister for the last five years, and it is with a tear in more than a few people's eyes that we announce he is leaving us today.

Sal came to Holy Cross in January of 2014. It did not take long for him to win the hearts of our youth, as well as the Core Group that works so hard to sustain this ministry. He has been a gift to the Pastoral Team as well as our entire parish community. He has a gentle spirit in all that he does; his feathers never get ruffled. He simply moves forward in ministry with joy. Sal was effective in his presentations and brought great enthusiasm to his work. But, beyond what he did was the example he gave by the way in which he lives his life. He gives witness to Christian service and compassion. I'm sure Holy Cross will always have a special place in his heart for a number of reasons, including this is where he celebrated the Sacrament of Marriage with his lovely bride, Danielle, in July of 2016. Thank you for all you have done, Sal. You will be missed.

Although Sal is leaving, our Youth Ministry moves forward. It can continue because of the dedication and passion of our Core Group. They will continue to plan all the activities that normally take place, including the Spring Retreat. In the coming months, we will seek someone who will again take on the role of Youth Minister.

Thank you to the members of our Youth Group who brought a bit of Christmas joy to the residents at Nesconset Nursing Center last weekend.

There is good news to report in regards to the Catholic Ministries Appeal. By the end of the month we will hit our goal! Thank you to those who gave throughout this past year in support of the CMA. We had a collection a few weeks ago which gained over \$3,800. We had a parishioner who agreed to match those gifts. In the end, he generously gave us a total of \$5,000. We were still a few dollars short of the goal, so the parish was going to write a check to make up the difference. Then, at the last minute we received a check from another parishioner for \$1,000. For those who made a pledge, you can still make payments on it through January 31. Final numbers still need to be calculated, but the good news is Holy Cross will receive a rebate of at least \$13,000. Thank you one and all.



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Fourth Sunday in Advent

Saturday, December 22nd, 2018: 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 23rd, 2018 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:30 am

Christmas Eve Masses

Monday, December 24th, 2018 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day Masses

Tuesday, December 25th, 2018 8:00 am, 10:00 am & 12:00 noon

Solemnity of Mary

Monday, December 31st, 2018: 5:00 pm Tuesday, January 1st, 2019: 10:00 am

Confessions

Saturdays in Advent: 3:45 pm to 4:30 pm Monday, December 17th, 2018 after 9:00 am Mass & 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

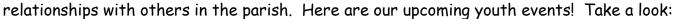
YOUTH MINISTRY

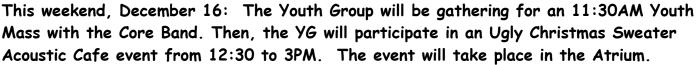
Hello everyone! Are you in high school? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games? Do you want to build more of an understanding about yourself and your faith? If you answered "Yes!" to any one of those questions, then you MUST check out the Holy Cross Youth Group! You will be glad you did! If you made your Confirmation, then come with a

friend and check out the wonderful opportunities the Youth Group has for you! We would love to see you!

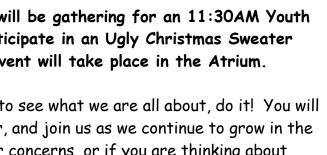
The Youth Group had a wonderful Youth Day Event last Sunday at the Nesconset Nursing Center. The event was an amazing, fun-filled experience as the teens spent time with the residents and worked together to give back to the community.

The Holy Cross Youth Group is the perfect opportunity for you to continue to grow in your faith and build





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 us at hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com or call the parish office. Thank you!



BAMBINELLI SUNDAY

Each year, on the Third Sunday of Advent, children gather with their families in St. Peter's Square in Rome for "Bambinelli Sunday." The children bring with them the figures of the Christ Child – the "Bambinelli" – from their family's crèche, and the children and figurines are blessed by the Pope.

This weekend, at all the Masses, Father Michael will give a special blessing. May Jesus fill your hearts and homes with peace, love and joy!



CASH CALENDAR



Christmas Blessings

Parish of the Holy Cross Cash Calendar December 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						\$50
\$50	3 \$50	\$50	5 \$50	6 \$50	7 \$50	8 \$500
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
\$50	17 \$50	18 \$50	19 \$50	20 \$50	\$50	22 \$50
\$50	\$50	25 \$50	26 \$50	27 \$50	28	29 \$50
30 \$50	31 \$50	\$10 PER CHANCE ~ 31 CHANCES TO WIN ~ \$50 PER DAY \$500 ON DECEMBER 8, FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION				

Cash Calendar, DECEMBER 2018	Cash Calendar, DECEMBER 2018		
NAME	NAME		
ADDRESS	ADDRESS		
TOWN	TOWN		
PHONE	PHONE		
Cash Calendar, DECEMBER 2018	Cash Calendar, DECEMBER 2018		
NAME	NAME		
ADDRESS	ADDRESS		
TOWN	TOWN		
PHONE	PHONE		
Cash Calendar, DECEMBER 2018	Cash Calendar, DECEMBER 2018		
NAME	NAME		
ADDRESS	ADDRESS		
TOWN	TOWN		
PHONE	PHONE		

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Saturday, December 15th 5 PM

• BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI Worship Area

Sunday, December 16th

All Masses

• BLESSING OF THE BAMBINELLI

Worship Area

• YOUTH MASS

11:30AM Worship Area

• YOUTH DAY EVENT

12:30PM Atrium

Monday, December 17th

After 9AM Mass

• CONFESSION

Chapel

SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES

5-6PM Atrium

5-OPIVI A

CONFESSION

7-8PM Chapel

Tuesday, December 18th
• COFFEE & CONVERSATION

7 PM

Atrium

MUSIC MINISTRY CDs

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We have some Holy Cross Music Ministry CDs left and will be selling them at all the Masses this weekend, December 15th/16th.

They make great Christmas gifts, so please consider purchasing a CD this weekend!

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SPECIAL COLLECTION

This weekend at the offertory we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Thank you for your continued support of this important collection!

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.



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM



Our Rights at the Christmas Season (cont'd. from 12/09)

www.cffor.org

- *Public school students may not be prohibited from distributing literature to fellow students concerning the Christmas holiday or invitations to church Christmas events on the same terms that they would be allowed to distribute other literature that is not related to schoolwork.
- *Private citizens or groups may display a crèche or other Christmas symbols in public parks subject to the same reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions that would apply to other similar displays.
- *Government entities may erect and maintain celebrations of the Christmas holiday, such as Christmas trees, lights and a crèche, at least so long as the purpose is placed in context with other symbols of the Holiday season through their traditional symbols.
- *Employees may decorate their offices for Christmas, play Christmas music, and wear clothing related to Christmas, so long as these activities are not used to intimidate others.
- *Employees whose sincerely held religious beliefs require that they not work on Christmas may be reasonably accommodated by their employers.
- *Government recognition of Christmas as a public holiday and granting government employees a paid holiday for Christmas does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment.

Compiled by Rutherford Institute Attorneys



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