

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!

Second Sunday of Advent – December 8, 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 14th/15th

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

Mass Intentions Schedule



Week of December 8th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Anthony Milano & Charlotte Dodge
Tue. Denise Lamarque
Wed. Charles Inghilterra
Thu. John O'Shea

Saturday, December 14th, 5 PM Mass

Stephen Reilly, Billy Henry, Edward & Debbie Simonetti, Letizia Antunez, Vilma Diaz, James Lechner, Dolores Pasqua

Sunday, December 15th, Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Mr. & Mrs. O. DeSanto, Jeanette Foy
9:30 AM Michael Corcoran, Anthony DeVito Jr., Angelo & Fay Petrizzo, Gaetana DiMondo, Maria Eannacone
11:30 AM People of the Parish

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 Graziose Jean Kuhl
Lorraine Lombardo Shirley Nocerino

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 15, 2019



+ Isaiah 35:1-6, 10
 + James 5:7-10
 + Matthew 11:2-11

Holy Days and Holy Smokes

by Father Michael

It ends up I had a little unscheduled mini-retreat last week at my house. My cable and internet were out of commission for eight days. The repair could not be made remotely, so I had to wait for an appointment for a service technician. It appears the Lord wanted me to have more silence and prayer time. I caught up on a little reading and cleaned out a few corners of the house. It is sobering to realize how dependent we are on electronic gizmos. I welcomed back television and my I-pad like the prodigal son. But, it was funny after a couple of days I found myself preferring the silence and simplicity of having to spend the evening or early morning without technology. It seems God wants me to embrace some more silence and a different routine during these days of Advent. If God is that insistent on it, I think it best that I use well the opportunity given me. You might want to give it a try and see if it works for you.

To pray or not to pray. There might be a little confusion regarding the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception which is traditionally celebrated on December 8th. This year that date falls on a Sunday. The Sunday Advent celebration takes precedence over a feast day. So, the celebration of the feast is moved to Monday, December 9th. We will have the usual 9:00 AM Mass on Monday, and that Mass will be for the Immaculate Conception. When this happens, there is no obligation to attend Mass. On the rare occasions when this occurs, I like to refer to it as a "Holy Day of Optionality." (And, yes, it is always a better thing to pray than not pray.)

We had a little mishap a couple of weeks ago. It was the weekend I was giving the "State of the Parish" address. Outside in the courtyard there was a standing receptacle for smokers to use. It was a tall, cylinder-like, plastic tube with a large weighted base that served as an ashtray. However, it seemed to have a fatal flaw in its design; it was made of combustible plastic. A burning cigarette caused the whole thing to catch fire. Unbeknownst to most of us at the 9:30 Mass, there was a small ball of flames that had to be addressed. Several Knights of Columbus (who were having a membership drive that weekend), along with Brian our Music Director and Vincent our custodian, jumped into action. It took a full fire extinguisher to put it out. It was standing on the edge of the flowerbed, which was full of dry leaves, so it easily could have become a larger problem. Both Smokey the Bear and I thank you for your efforts.

Keep praying, and remember, only you can prevent ashtray fires.

PARISH OUTREACH

A VERY IMPORTANT REMINDER!!

TODAY, DECEMBER 8th, IS THE LAST DAY TO RETURN YOUR ANGEL GIFT CARDS OR GIFTS. Please be sure all Angel items are here by the end of the 11:30 Mass. This afternoon, our Outreach committee will be sorting and allocating the gift cards for our families so that they have time to shop. The agencies will also be picking up their gift items this week.



We hope you will continue to keep our struggling neighbors in your prayers. Thank you for remembering them during this season of joy, hope and peace.

ATTENTION HOLY CROSS FAMILIES!

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.



We will be celebrating *Bambinelli Sunday* here at Holy Cross on the weekend of **December 14th & 15th**, at all our Masses. Everyone (young and old alike) is invited to bring your figure of the Christ Child for a special blessing.

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

KUDOS KORNER by Religious Ed

A big CONGRATULATIONS to these Holy Cross parishioners who have received *Honor Roll certificates* for the first quarter of 2019 at St. Anthony's High School!

Anthony Azzarelli
Hayley Clark
Nicholas Corso
Jakob Friedman
Matthew Moss





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—ADVENT

Belated Happy New Year! So, last weekend we began our new year on the Church's liturgical calendar. We even changed into a different cycle for our Scripture readings heard at Mass. For Sundays, we are officially in CYCLE A, which means most of the Gospel readings will be from St. Matthew. For more on Matthew, see below.



When preparing for Christmas, it is easy to get distracted during Advent by all the festive decorations, parties and Christmas movies. We often forget to carve out time in our day to enjoy the beautiful season of Advent and foster a spirit of hopeful expectation for the coming of Jesus Christ.

What can we do to help ourselves realize where we are in our spiritual journey? How can we improve?

Try reflections for Advent – booklets available. If you have not picked one up on your way out of Mass or if you are a “techy type,” see below for a list of some Advent apps that might be helpful right from your phone. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Magnificat Advent Companion – for both android and i-phone
- Advent with Pope Francis – for both android and i-phone
- The Word Among Us – for both android and i-phone

For those who enjoy reading ahead for the upcoming Sunday, be aware that the Gospel according to Matthew sets the stage for the entire New Testament as it narrates the first set of stories we read about the life of Jesus. A long genealogy of Jesus in the very first chapter places us firmly in the Old Testament, particularly in Genesis, where we read about the patriarchs. It was important in Matthew to establish Jesus as an heir to the promise of Abraham and as the Messiah King who came from the house of David. Matthew writes primarily to Jewish Christians around 80-85 AD. Another good point to keep in mind when reading Matthew is the sense of the passion and commitment of the early Church leaders. They were driven in their mission to preach and to baptize all nations.

For today, let us think about what we have noticed in the Church since we moved into Advent. What do the candles and wreath mean to each of us? How about the change of color to purple? May you start here to bring your thoughts and feelings to the stillness of this beautiful time in the Church's year. Have a blessed week.

Michele Hahn

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.



REMINDERS

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.



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

*This weekend, at the offertory, we will also be collecting for the **Retirement Fund for Religious**. Your gift provides vital support for senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.*

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

Thank you for your support of these important collections!

The Office of FAITH FORMATION DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS THROUGH MARCH 2020

REGISTER ONLINE WWW.DRVC-FAITH.ORG

RCIA Level I

St Martin of Tours, Bethpage

Thursdays, January 16, 23, 30, February 6, and 13, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Building Intercultural Competences in Ministry

St. Frances Cabrini, Coram

Thursdays, February 6, 13, 27; March 12, and 19, 2020
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Or

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Roosevelt

Mondays, February 10, 24; March 2, 9, and 16, 2020
6:30 p.m. to 8:30 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.

Bereavement Ministry Facilitator Training Level I & II

St. Mary's, East Islip

Saturday, March 28; April 4, 18, 25;
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; and June 6, 2020
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

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 our upcoming events:

- **December 8:** We will be having a Youth Night from 6 to 8PM and will wrap Christmas gifts to bring to Nursing Home residents.
- **December 15:** Youth Day Event! We will attend the 11:30 Mass and then, after Mass, visit the Nursing Home to deliver the gifts we wrapped the week before.
- **December 22:** Christmas Break—No Youth Group
- **December 29:** Christmas Break—No Youth Group
- **January 5:** Youth Group meetings resume!!!



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!

PARISH OUTREACH

Homebound and Hospitalized

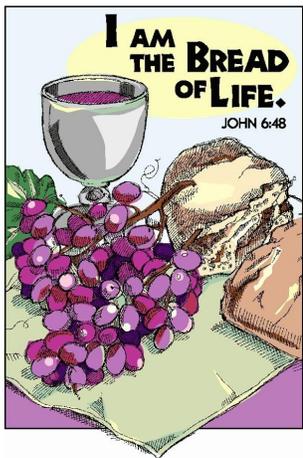
Are you, or someone you know in the parish, homebound or anticipating an operation or treatment for cancer? We in Holy Cross are eager to know in a more personal way our parishioners who are homebound or hospitalized. Often, we do not hear of a person's illness or inability to join us for Sunday Mass. Please call 265-2200 x113 or stop by the office to let Parish Outreach know of these parishioners who are so special to us. We really depend on you.



Parish Outreach sends cards, on behalf of our parish, to those who are ill or hospitalized. Our homebound folks receive friendly telephone calls by Outreach volunteers to keep up the connection and to assess ways the parish can be present to these loved parishioners. At Advent and Easter time a volunteer will visit them and bring a gift from the parish community. Eucharistic Ministers are also available to bring communion to the homebound who desire it.

These are some of the ways Holy Cross reaches out to the homebound and hospitalized. Please help us by contacting Parish Outreach or a member of the Pastoral Team if you know of anyone we can serve in their time of need.

YOU MAY WANT TO...



Consider a donation of Altar Bread and Wine for a week, especially if your request for a date for a Mass has been taken. Your special occasion or loved one's name will be printed in the bulletin.

Or, you may want to make a monetary donation to Holy Cross in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone living. We now have a Book of Memorials and a Book of Honorees. Your donation will be used to purchase needed items for our church. Holy Cross has a practice of not engraving names on benches and other items, but your donation will be recorded in the appropriate book for all posterity.

Our Parish Outreach also accepts donations in memory or honor of someone and has lovely cards that you can send.

For more information, please visit or call the Parish Office at 631-265-2200 x122.

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

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
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Cash Calendar, DECEMBER, 2019

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Cash Calendar, DECEMBER, 2019

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Cash Calendar, DECEMBER, 2019

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Cash Calendar, DECEMBER, 2019

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 TOWN _____
 PHONE _____

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Saturday, December 7th		9AM-12PM
• WREATH/CENTERPIECE PICK-UP		Atrium
• HOLY HOUR	3:45-4:45 PM	Worship Area
• ANGEL GIFTS DUE	5PM	Atrium
Sunday, December 8th		All Masses
• ANGEL GIFTS DUE		Atrium
• YOUTH NIGHT	6 - 8 PM	Atrium
Monday, December 9th		4 - 6 PM
• SPECIAL NEEDS CLASSES		Atrium
Tuesday, December 10th		10 AM
• IN STITCHES		Fr. Joe Room
• WINTER CARNIVAL COMMITTEE	7PM	Fr. Joe Room
Wednesday, December 11th		1:15 PM
• AWAKENING FAITH		Atrium, Chapel
• BAPTISM PREP	7:30PM	Fr. Joe Room
Thursday, December 12th		10 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY		Fr. Joe Room
Sunday, December 15th		11:30 Mass
• YOUTH GROUP		Worship Area
• YOUTH DAY EVENT	1-3:30PM	Nursing Home
• BAPTISMS	1PM	Worship Area

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL

Thank you for your generous support of the 2019 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

If you haven't done so already, please be sure to complete your pledge.

There's still time to make a gift.

Please remember that all new pledges must be in by December 31, 2019 and paid in full by January 31, 2020.

COMMUNITY NEWS

**Saint Anthony's High School
Franciscan Brothers**

Christmas Concert of Instrumental and Choral Music

Friday December 13, 2019 **Saturday** December 14, 2019

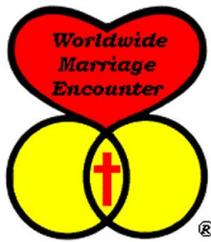
**Auditorium 7:00 PM
Donation \$10.00**



Worldwide Marriage Encounter

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire." Work to ensure your marriage bears good fruit by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Weekends are January 31 - February 2, 2020 in Huntington, NY and May 1-3, 2020 in Huntington, NY.

For more information, call John & Toni Torio at 877-697-9963 or visit them at <https://wwmenyli.org/>.





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