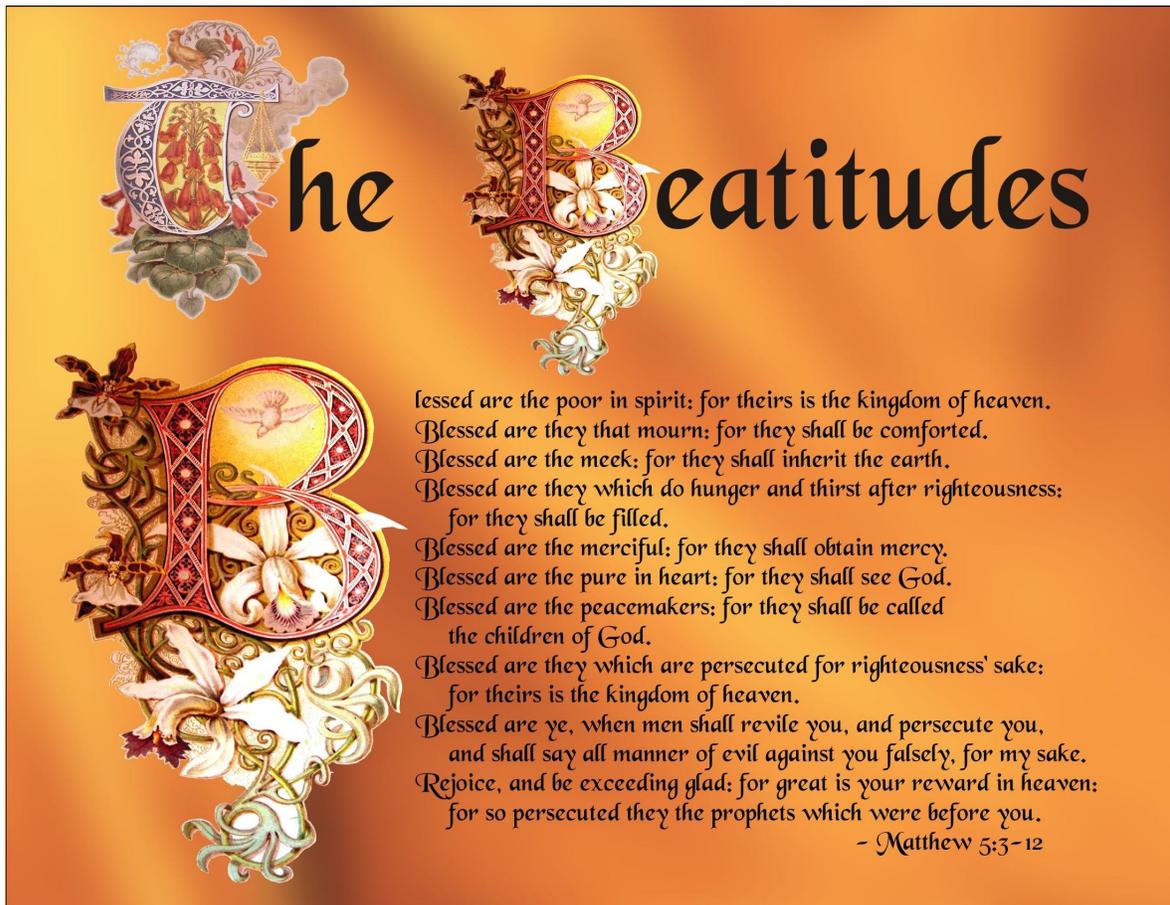


# The Parish of the Holy Cross

95 Nichols Road + Nesconset, NY 11767 + 631.265.2200 +

[www.pothc.org](http://www.pothc.org) + [www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset](http://www.facebook.com/pothcnesconset)

**LET ALL BE WELCOMED AS CHRIST!**



**The Beatitudes**

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:  
for they shall be filled.  
Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called  
the children of God.  
Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you,  
and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.  
Rejoice, and be exceeding glad; for great is your reward in heaven:  
for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.  
- Matthew 5:3-12

**Come and pray with us!**

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 17, 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

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

## 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



#### February 23rd/24th

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 February 17th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** Rinaldi family  
**Tue.** John Renda  
**Wed.** Arthur Colwin  
**Thu.** Carol Gibbons (living)

#### Saturday, February 23rd, 5 PM Mass

Eileen Kamine, James Eng, Rose Grace Arzillo,  
 Vincent Mattera

#### Sunday, Feb. 24th, 7th Sun. in Ordinary Time

**8:00 AM** People of the Parish  
**9:30 AM** Helen Dalamango  
**11:30 AM** Guillerma Banaguas, Margaret Lubin,  
 Maureen McCarthy, Rosemary  
 Podesta, Jadwiga Horodecki

### Remembering Our Sick

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

**Maria Conte      Maryann League**  
**Paul Malley**

*The Bread and Wine for the  
 week February 17th - 23rd have  
 been donated in loving memory  
 of **Richard P. Canalini**  
 by **MaryAnn Canalini & family.***



#### *Scripture Readings for February 24, 2019*



+ 1 Samuel 26:2,7-9,12-13,22-23  
 + 1 Corinthians 15:45-49  
 + Luke 6:27-38

# Hope it was a Happy Valentine's Day

*by Father Michael*

Valentine's Day is not exactly the most important day in my life. But, I hope you were able to express your love to those who are near and dear to you.

Again, allow me to extend my thanks to all who were part of our first Valentine's Sweetheart Dance last Friday evening. The atrium was festively decorated for the occasion, and our children dressed up for the festivities. It was a simple evening but one that brought life and joy to those who were there. I am so pleased that Holy Cross is able to offer moments like this.

You may have noticed that when we have heavy rains, there are often buckets placed around the atrium to help contain water that is leaking from the roof. The flat roof over the atrium was replaced about eight years ago, before I arrived. We are disappointed to be dealing with leaks on a roof that is relatively new. However, after our Business Manager did some homework, she came to the realization that the warranty we received was still in effect; it's not only for materials, but labor as well. After a few phone calls to the manufacturer, we had a repair crew here at no cost to the parish.

Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent are still a few weeks away, but I would like to plant a seed or two for you to think about. In working with the Liturgy Committee, we came up with the theme of "Sacred Silence." It is our hope that this focus could be a source of inspiration and direction for the season. Think about the ways in which you might incorporate more silence into your life. The more we stop filling our heads with excess noise, the greater the chance that we can more clearly hear what God has to say to us. Things like keeping the radio off in the car or less TV might become paths of holiness. More to come on this topic.

Needless to say, listening to the news can be discouraging. Certainly, the recently passed abortion legislation in New York has been disturbing. Please read Bishop Barres' letter which is contained in this bulletin. Please prayerfully consider how you can respond to such an affront on human life. There are times when being people of faith calls us to action. In what ways are you being called to respond to speak up for what we believe in as a Catholic people? There are times when the details of our individual lives consume much of our time and focus, and there are times when we must take a look at the broader picture of life. We pray for courageous people (both elected officials and ordinary folks) to respond in ways that can help bring about change, and embrace and support God's gift of life.

**The Parish Office is closed on Monday, February 18th, for Presidents' Day.  
There will be a 9:00 Mass Monday morning.**

# ATTENTION ADULTS!

*Coming in March: A new opportunity for adult parishioners!*

## **Awakening Faith**

Awakening Faith is a six-week program of Catholic renewal built around a simple format: hospitality, input, and small groups. The process of conversation and sharing around key topics of faith, in a friendly, non-threatening, and confidential environment, provides a unique path toward spiritual enrichment and growth.

This program covers six topics: *Spirituality, God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, Forgiveness, the Mass, and the Church.*

Each 90 minute session includes prayer, Scripture, information on a topic, small group sharing, Q & A, and, of course, coffee and cake!

Holy Cross will begin offering Awakening Faith in March. Our sessions will be held on **Tuesday evenings** from **7:00 – 8:30 PM**. The dates will be:

- **March 5 and 19**
- **April 2 and 16**
- **May 14\* and 21**

*\*Please note, we will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, except in May, it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday.*

Space is limited to 40 people, and materials need to be ordered, so please get your registration in soon. No prior experience is needed – just a desire to grow closer to God and to one another.

If you have any questions, please call Jude at ext. 16.

*Please tear off and return by February 28:*

I want to participate in *Awakening Faith* (Please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



**Pray the Rosary**—Join us as we **Pray the Rosary** in the Chapel at **10:30AM** on the last Sunday of each month! The next date is **February 24th!**



# 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 check out the wonderful opportunities the Youth Group has for you! We would love to see you! 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 Night:**



**And, here are our upcoming events. Take a look!**

- **February 16/17 - Winter Break, so we will not be meeting.**
- **Sunday, February 24 - Join us for an 11:30AM Youth Mass with the Core Band and a Youth Day Event following it, from 12:30 to 3PM!**

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](mailto:hcyouthgroup15@gmail.com) or call the parish office.



DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 11, 2019  
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

*“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...”* (Jeremiah 1:5)

At the very heart of our beliefs about who we are and why we exist, is a message of love. God creates us out of love. Out of love, He redeems us by the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus. He calls us to an eternal destiny with Him because He loves each sacred human life, created in His image.

That we are created in God’s image is reaffirmed in our nation’s Declaration of Independence, reminding us that we “are endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are **Life**, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” The **right to life** is the foundation and starting point for every other God-given human right. When that right is attacked or denied, all other rights and liberties begin to crumble.

You are probably aware that on January 22, 2019, the 46<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* (the Supreme Court decision that declared an absolute constitutional right to abortion), Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York signed into law the “Reproductive Health Act”, which he himself called “the most aggressive” abortion law in the country. It was then “celebrated” by his lighting up One World Trade Center and the Alfred E. Smith Building in Albany.

It is our obligation as citizens and as Catholics, to be well informed and to make our voices heard in the public square when evil and injustice threaten the sacred gift of life at any stage.

On a human level, this gruesome law should be appalling to people of every faith, or no faith. The Reproductive Health Act allows for abortion on demand with no restrictions throughout all of pregnancy. *This means that as a choice, an abortion could be performed on a full-term infant as the mother is going into labor.*

This law might also open the door to taking away conscience protections from medical personnel, and could be used to force doctors, nurses and other medical staff to perform or to assist in abortions. Governor Cuomo claims that he is protecting women’s rights, when in fact, this law endangers the lives of women by allowing non-physicians to perform abortions, and it removes any objective standard of care due to the patient.

*The Act has also removed criminal penalties when an unborn child is deliberately targeted for death in a crime.* Two and a half weeks after the bill became law, the Queens District Attorney said he could not prosecute a man for the stabbing death of his unborn child in the womb of his girlfriend, because of the passage of the Reproductive Health Act.

*Unimaginably, the law also repeals protections for infants who are accidentally born alive during the course of a failed abortion.* This amounts to infanticide, the killing either by direct

means or by neglect of an infant who is alive outside the womb. The law is silent on reducing the pain and suffering of infants, especially those being aborted late term.

Brothers and sisters, this law is an abomination that cries out to Heaven for justice. We cannot be silent in the face of such a blatant attack on the most vulnerable among us. I invite you to do several things:

1. **Stay informed and educated** regarding these issues and the battles ahead of us, such as assisted suicide and legalized surrogacy. Two outstanding resources available to you are:
  - The New York State Catholic Conference on the web at <https://www.nyscatholic.org>.
  - The Diocese of Rockville Centre Respect Life Office and web page: (516) 678-5800 Extension 381 or on the web at <https://respectlife.drvc.org>
2. **Get involved.** Both web pages listed above offer easy links to contacting your elected representatives. Let the Governor and our other elected officials know that this Act violates the dignity of the human person and that you do not support it.

Get involved in the efforts already underway at your parish, such as Respect Life Committees. In addition, our Diocesan Respect Life Office can direct you to ways that you can support and promote the sanctity of life locally, on Long Island.

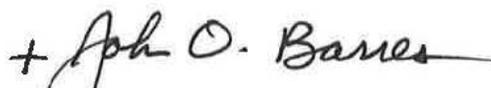
3. **Pray.** Pray the Holy Rosary. Ask the intercession of Our Blessed Mother Mary, Protector of Mothers, Defender of Life and the Family, to strengthen us so that we may be compassionate, courageous witnesses to the truth. Ask also for the intercession of Saint Thomas More, patron of statesmen, politicians, lawyers and judges, who lost his life for refusing to renounce his conscience and give in to the tides of political power and privilege.

Pray for our elected officials and for all people and pray that our politicians come to understand their profound obligation to defend the most defenseless among us. Any Catholic who actively supports an attack on the sacredness of life, chooses to place him or herself in grave moral danger and outside of the Communion of the Church. We pray for their souls, for a spirit of repentance, for a return to the truth of the love of God. It is God's love that formed each one of us in our Mother's womb.

A civilization that not only will not protect, but actually celebrates an attack on its most vulnerable members is morally bankrupt and stands on the verge of collapse. We pray for the courage of the martyrs, that an awakened spirit of evangelization and voices raised together will move hearts and minds, and call us back to our God-given senses, to the God who made us, who loves us, and who offers us our eternal destiny in love.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ,

  
Most Reverend John O. Barres  
Bishop of Rockville Centre

# CASH CALENDAR



Parish of the Holy Cross Cash Calendar

## FEBRUARY 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					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 Valentine's Day \$50	15 \$50	16 \$50
17 \$50	18 Presidents' Day \$500	19 \$50	20 \$50	21 \$50	22 \$50	23 \$50
24 \$50	25 \$50	26 \$50	27 \$50	28 \$50	\$10 Per Chance 28 Chances to Win	\$50 Per Day \$500 on Presidents' Day

Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2019

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Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2019

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Cash Calendar, FEBRUARY 2019

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 TOWN \_\_\_\_\_  
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# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Monday, February 18th</b>	9 AM
• MASS <i>(The Parish Office is closed for Presidents' Day.)</i>	Worship Area
<b>Tuesday, February 19th</b>	10 AM
• IN STITCHES	Fr. Joe Room
• LITURGY COMMITTEE	7PM Fr. Joe Room
<b>Wednesday, February 20th</b>	11:30AM-2:30PM
• SENIORS	Atrium
• BAPTISM PREP	7:30PM Fr. Joe Room
<b>Thursday, February 21st</b>	10 AM
• SCRIPTURE STUDY	Fr. Joe Room
<b>Sunday, February 24th</b>	10:30 AM
• PRAY THE ROSARY	Chapel
• YOUTH MASS W/CORE BAND	11:30AM Worship Area
• YOUTH DAY EVENT	12:30-3PM Atrium

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Winter—Name of God

with Sister Pat Duffy, OP



at St. Gerard Majella Church  
Terryville Rd., Port Jefferson Station

*February 24th 1:30-3:00 PM*

In the stark and seemingly empty days of winter we can find ourselves weighed down by life's situations. This afternoon is a time to look at the questions: "Is God really here for me?" - "What about all the uncertainty?" - "How can I pray in the midst of how I am feeling?"

Let us change our inner and outer dialogues and renew ourselves in the hope and knowledge that *God is always waiting to come to us*, and allow God to embrace and uphold us anew!

# GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY



*Tell your Scouting friends.....All Are Welcome*

**When:** March 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 Mass

**(Arrive 15 minutes early to sign in.)**

**Where:** Parish of the Holy Cross, Nesconset

**Who:** All Scouts and their families are invited to attend.

**What to wear:** Girl Scout Uniform / Sash

Please let us know who/how many Scouts are coming.

Text, call or email any questions you may have.

Girls, please bring a goody for hospitality!

Kim Loh Bodor  
516-996-2297  
akjlb23@optonline.net

Janine Mehlinger  
631-384-1255  
cheecheej9@aol.com



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