

# 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!**

**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.*



**Come and pray with us!**

**Third Sunday of Easter - April 18, 2021**

**We celebrate Eucharist**

Monday-Thursday 9:00 AM; Saturday 5:00 PM; Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM  
(The 9:00 Weekday Mass & Sunday 11:30 Mass are live streamed on Facebook.)

**We celebrate Reconciliation**

Saturday 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM; Wednesday after 9:00 AM Mass

# WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

631.265.2200 + Fax 631.265.2229 + parish@holycrossrc.org  
 Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 4 PM (closed 12:15 - 1 PM)

## PASTORAL TEAM

Rev. Michael F. Holzmann  
 Pastor, ext.115

Deacon Ralph Rivera  
 Pastoral Minister, ext.119

Mrs. Judith Pickel  
 Pastoral Associate, ext.116

Mrs. Michele Hahn  
 Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Tricia Clarke, ext.112  
 Coordinator of Religious Education

Mrs. Kelley Mowat, ext.113  
 Coordinator of Parish Outreach

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano  
 Business Manager, ext.110

Mr. Brian Reich  
 Director of Music Ministry

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein  
 Youth Minister

## PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth  
 Parish Secretary, ext.122

Dr. Vincent Mazurek  
 Music Minister

Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111  
 Religious Education Secretary  
 (mpannone@holycrossrc.org)

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

Mr. Roberto Maza  
 Mr. Vincent Matula  
 Custodians

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra  
 Weekend Sacristan

## Remembering Our Sick

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

<b>Kathy Barry</b>	<b>Patricia Becker</b>
<b>Barbara Bombace</b>	<b>Ann Callari</b>
<b>Manuela Diaz</b>	<b>Ann Egan</b>
<b>Jim Emerson</b>	<b>Sienna Fricke</b>
<b>Jeanne Gallo</b>	<b>Phil Graziose</b>
<b>Bob Grieco</b>	<b>Debbie Jablinowski</b>
<b>Gerald Losquadro</b>	<b>Charlotte Lynch</b>
<b>Nick Matonti</b>	<b>Olivia Melia</b>
<b>Carole Porcelli</b>	<b>Joseph Santamaria</b>
<b>Barbara Sherry</b>	<b>Marlene Starr</b>
<b>David Velkas</b>	<b>Doreen Velkas</b>
<b>Judy Viskupic</b>	<b>Peter Warns</b>
<b>Elaine Wilkinson</b>	

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 x122.

## Mass Intentions Schedule



### Week of April 18th, 9AM Mass

**Mon.** James Pickel  
**Tue.** Charlotte Wangenstein  
**Wed.** Thomas Brophy  
**Thu.** Maureen O'Malley (living)

### Saturday, April 24th, 5PM Mass

Jane & John J. Daly, Carmine DeOrio

### Sunday, April 25th, Fourth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM People of the Parish  
 9:30 AM Michele Aufiero  
 11:30 AM James Tracey, Hertha McDonald,  
 Katherine Salvato, Sara & James Connor



### Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses

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

# THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

*by Father Michael*

This is the Third Sunday of Easter. Last year, on this Sunday, we heard the famous Gospel story of the Road to Emmaus. At that time, we were in the midst of the lockdown. As a prelude before Mass began that Sunday, we started the livestream on Nichols Road, walked up the driveway and into the Worship Area to the melody of the Beatles' "Long and Winding Road." It seemed like an appropriate way to introduce the theme for the day.

At that time, the sentiment of being on a long road was felt by all. It was a bleak and dreary day when we made that recording. Nichols Road was deserted. The weather and the setting reflected our spirits. It felt like we were in the middle of a long and winding journey, with no end in sight. We have come a long way, but the journey continues. For some there is newness of life and optimism. For others there are still challenges that need to be dealt with. Although this year the gospel is different, the story of the Road to Emmaus reminds us that Jesus always journeys with us, even if we don't always recognize him. And certainly, in the breaking of the bread, we are reminded of his presence.

This past week we had some spirit-filled gatherings for our young people in our Level 8 (Confirmation) program. It was a collaboration between our Religious Ed Office and Youth Ministry. There are many rich and spiritual opportunities that are part of our Youth Ministry program. But there is also a lot of fun that is had along the way. These evenings included a bit of each of those aspects (and even some s'mores to snack on). We are hopeful that many of our young people will maintain their connection to the parish through Youth Ministry. I am grateful to the many helping hands that created these fruitful evenings.

Also this weekend, we are conducting our pre-Cana program for our engaged couples. Normally we offer one program in the spring. However, this year because of the need to have smaller groups, and an increase in the number of marriages that will be celebrated, we will offer a second weekend program later in May. There is life which abounds.

This coming week I begin my annual appointed rounds as Dean. I need to visit the surrounding parishes and verify that their sacramental records are being maintained properly. The paperwork itself is a bit tedious. But I do enjoy visiting the other parishes. Each community has its own charism, and the life of the Church is carried on in a variety of ways.

Whether you are on a long straightaway or in the midst of some hairpin turns in life, know that the gift of the Risen Lord is offered to you. Receive his comfort, his healing life, and know that you are never alone.



## *Scripture Readings for April 25, 2021*

+ Acts 4:8-12

+ 1 John 3:1-2

+ John 10:11-18

# PARISH NEWS

*The Bread and Wine for the week April 18th - 24th have been donated for the intentions of Sister Maura Costello and her family.*



**Coming back in May -  
*Holy Cross Book Club!***

Check next week's bulletin for details.

## Adult Confirmation

*Are you a baptized Catholic who has not celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation?*

If so, it's not too late! Classes will start soon in preparation for Adult Confirmation on the **Feast of Pentecost**. Call Jude at extension 116 for more information.

## Holy Hour for Peace

We will again offer our Holy Hour on the first Saturday of the month from 3:45-4:45 PM in the Worship Area. **Our next Holy Hour will take place on Saturday, May 1st.** Please come and spend some time before the Blessed Sacrament praying for God's gift of peace to touch our wounded world.



## Anointing of the Sick

In the past, people received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick only when they were gravely ill. However, the Church believes that the Anointing of the Sick should be experienced while we are still able to be aware of God's peaceful presence within us.

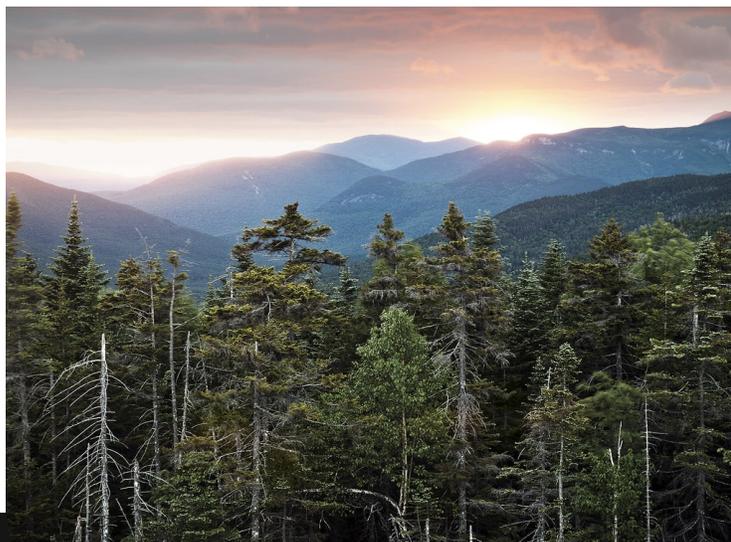


You are strongly encouraged to receive this Sacrament if you are having upcoming surgery, are dealing with a chronic or debilitating illness, are suffering from addiction, mental health issues or frailty.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will again be offered after the 9:30 AM Mass on the first Sunday of each month. **The Sacrament will be offered on May 2nd.**

# HOLY CROSS TRAVEL CLUB

*Save the Dates!*



*July 18-21*

*White Mountains, New Hampshire*



*September 16-17*

*Brimfield, Massachusetts – Antique Fair*

**More info coming soon!**

# LITURGY BYTES

Did you ever hear anyone say, “The Mass is boring. I don’t get anything out of it”? Some might say their children have echoed those sentiments on occasion, and others might have admitted they themselves uttered those words too. Since we are experiencing the beautiful 50 days of the Easter season, I thought a reflection of discovery, pointing out four points about Mass, might be helpful.



Did you ever hear that much of the “boredom” stems from ignorance? Many do not know what Church is all about. At least, that has been my experience. My husband always said the more he learned about Church, the less boring it became.

Back in the **second century**, the Christians had a distinct form of worship, much like what we are familiar with today. Those Christians listened to readings from some of the writings of the Apostles, followed by the presider’s instruction (homily). Then the bread and wine were presented and shared; prayers and thanksgivings were also offered. Isn’t it amazing to know that the basic structure of the Mass has been maintained for over 1900 years! Wherever the Christian faith spread, Sunday worship would ultimately be anchored in two parts: the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Sound familiar???

Please come back next week for the next installment in helping to “get more out of the Mass” and/or for a few tips to guide family and friends to a better understanding of the most important hour of our lives.

Have a safe, healthy, and blessed week~~~~*Michele Hahn*

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Hello everyone! Are you in high school? Have you received the Sacrament of Confirmation? Do you want to make new friends as you play fun games, and 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! 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:

**Sunday, April 25: We will be meeting from 6 to 8PM!**

**Sunday, May 2: Join us for another fun Youth Night from 6 to 8PM!**

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 [youthgroup@holycrossrc.org](mailto:youthgroup@holycrossrc.org) or call the parish office.



# 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.

# CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

*If you have a green thumb, and like to garden,  
come join us in beautifying our grounds this spring!*

*Thursday, April 29th at 10 AM*

*&*

*Saturday, May 1st at 10 AM.*

For more information contact Barbara  
DeStefano at 631-265-2200 x110.



# BACKGROUND SCREENING UPDATE

## *The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People:*

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (The Charter) promulgated by the Bishops of the United States in 2002 outlines specific practices and guidelines providing standards of safety in parishes and dioceses throughout the United States. As directed in The Charter, the Diocese of Rockville Centre requires all employees, clergy, and volunteers to complete three requirements within thirty days of employment or volunteering:

1. Attend **Protecting God's Children Program (Virtus)**
2. Sign the Codes of Conduct
3. Complete a background screen application. The Diocese requires all those who remain in active ministry be rescreened at 5-year intervals. volunteers/employees.

### **A Word on Background Screening of Volunteers:**

The Office for the Protection of Children and Young People (OFPCYP) has streamlined the volunteer application process enabling volunteers to complete the three safe environment requirements in one step. Individuals wishing to volunteer in a parish or school:

1. Register to attend a Protecting God's Children class and create a Virtus account on the Virtus website: [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org)
2. Electronically acknowledge the Diocesan Code of Conduct - provided during the Virtus registration process.
3. Follow the instructions to complete the Sterling Volunteers background screening application offered during the Virtus registration process.

### **Active Volunteers:**

If you are active in a parish ministry, have already attended Virtus and have been background screened, you may be at - or beyond - the **5yr. rescreening requirement**. If this is the case, you will receive an email from **Sterling Volunteers** asking you to complete the background screening application online. You may access the background screening application by following the prompt in the email or logging into your Virtus account. **Please be aware - this is not a scam nor has your email been hacked.** The OFPCYP has been working with your parish to update the Safe Environment records and noted it is time for you to be rescreened. You may also be prompted to electronically re-sign the Code of Conduct when you log into your Virtus account.

### **Edit Your Virtus Account:**

To access your Virtus account [www.Virtus.org](http://www.Virtus.org) you will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or [helpdesk@virtus.org](mailto:helpdesk@virtus.org). Once in your account, review your account information - particularly your email address. If your account requires updating, please hit the TOOLBOX tab at the top of the screen. On the left side of your screen, in the green column, click "Update My Account." You will be able to make the necessary changes. Please remember to hit the SAVE button at the bottom of the screen.

Questions or concerns: [mmcmahon@drvc.org](mailto:mmcmahon@drvc.org); [amendoza-cantos@drvc.org](mailto:amendoza-cantos@drvc.org); [jwinter@drvc.org](mailto:jwinter@drvc.org); [pditomasso@drvc.org](mailto:pditomasso@drvc.org)

Thank you to all who continue to serve in a ministry during these extremely challenging days.

# WHAT'S NEW?

## Spring Cash Fling

For many years the Cash Calendar was a part of the Holy Cross routine. This fundraiser provided some additional financial support to the parish. In addition, many parishioners enjoyed participating in it. Unfortunately, it was one of the many parts of parish life that was lost to Covid. At this time, it is unlikely that we have enough parishioners attending Mass on a weekly basis to support a monthly drawing. And so, we introduce the "Spring Cash Fling." This is a similar idea, however it will be offered initially on a quarterly basis.

- \$10 per ticket
- Tickets are available for purchase through March, April, and May.
- Drawing will be held in May.

Because we anticipate smaller participation, there will be a different pay scale:

- \* 1 Prize @ \$250
- \* 2 Prizes @ \$100
- \* 10 Prizes @ \$50
- \* 15 Prizes @ \$25



- This formula was based upon selling 250 tickets @ \$10 each. If more than 250 tickets are sold, the number of prizes will be increased. *(In the event the response is strong, we will resume a monthly drawing as soon as possible.)*
- Tickets will not be sold after Mass. Please use the tear-off tickets below. You may return your entries by placing them in an envelope and depositing it in the basket on weekends, or returning them to the Parish Office.

***Thank you for your support!***

### Spring Cash Fling

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Spring Cash Fling

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Spring Cash Fling

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Spring Cash Fling

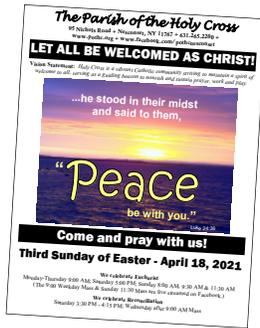
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Town \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# MEETINGS THIS WEEK

<b>Saturday, April 17th</b> • PRE-CANA	<b>8:45AM-6:30PM</b> All Rooms
<b>Monday, April 19th</b> • SPECIAL NEEDS	<b>4 - 6 PM</b> Atrium/Chapel
<b>Tuesday, April 20th</b> • IN STITCHES • FINANCE COMMITTEE	<b>10 AM</b> Fr. Joe Room <b>7PM</b> Fr. Joe Room
<b>Sunday, April 25th</b> • BAPTISMS • YOUTH NIGHT	<b>1 PM</b> Worship Area <b>6-8PM</b> Atrium

# BE A BULLETIN ADVERTISER!

**Did you know** that the Holy Cross bulletin is printed for us each week free of charge? **So please frequent the fine establishments that advertise in our bulletin!** If your business could use some exposure, consider advertising in the bulletin. Each weekend, numerous people attend Mass at Holy Cross, most of whom live and shop in Nesconset and the surrounding areas. Also, our bulletin is on our website **pothc.org** and reaches thousands of area families with information about your business. If you are interested, please call The Church Bulletin Inc. at **631-249-4994**.



# LET'S PRAY

## 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

# CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL UPDATE

Here is an update on the status of the Appeal here at Holy Cross:

<u>Goal</u>	<u>Pledges</u>	<u>Over (Under)</u>	<u># of Donors</u>	<u>% of Goal</u>
\$74,200.00	\$30,220.00	(\$43,980.00)	115	40.73%

When payments reach 100% of our goal, we receive a rebate of 20% or \$14,840. Please help your community and your parish by supporting the CMA!



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