

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!

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.*

I AM THE
GOOD SHEPHERD
I KNOW MY SHEEP
AND MY SHEEP
KNOW
ME.

JOHN 10:14



Come and pray with us!

Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 25, 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:

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

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 25th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Victor Lamarque
Tue. Mark & Liz Lacob (living)
Wed. Alyssa DeWeever Rogan
Thu. John Grandsire

Saturday, May 1st, 5PM Mass

Gloria Posimato, Michael Terranova, Carmela
 Terranova, Jane Daly, Stephen Eith, Patricia Clarke

Sunday, May 2nd, Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM People of the Parish
 9:30 AM Gemma & Carmine Cusano, Katherine
 Scott, Carmela Guglielmo, Lydia
 Narvaez, Julio Garced
 11:30 AM Barbara O'Connor



Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| 5:00 PM | Fr. Michael |
| 8:00 AM | Fr. Michael |
| 9:30 AM | Fr. Michael |
| 11:30 AM | Fr. Michael |

HAPPY EARTH DAY

by Father Michael

This week the Finance Committee met for its quarterly meeting. It is remarkable that in spite of all the limitations and obstacles we faced, we continue to be financially stable. Our overall weekly collections are down a bit compared to pre-Covid collections, but our expenses are also down (except for snow removal!) The Easter collection was very strong. I am so grateful that during these days I had very few financial worries about the parish. Thank you to all those who faithfully support Holy Cross. I appreciate your generosity and your support of what we do.

Next week's bulletin will have details regarding the trip I hope to run to New Hampshire. I'm not sure how many folks are willing to get on a tour bus, but I am willing to give it a shot. The week after Easter, I took a few days off and drove up to the "live free or die" state. I visited an old friend who lives there. I also wanted to go on a little fact-finding mission in preparation for the summer trip. I spoke to a number of business owners about being able to accommodate a bus group. So many of them did not know what to do. While they were hopeful about a return of tourists, they were also concerned about restrictions and how they might impact their ability to accommodate a bus. It was tricky trying to plan a trip with so many uncertainties, but it looks like we will be able to offer a nice little trip for those who are ready to travel.

Outdoor settings in nature have always provided a point of reference in my prayer and reflection. Sometimes I go out of my way to place myself in a setting that I know will be beautiful. When I choose a place to go on retreat, I pick a location where I know the mountains, desert, or oceans will be my backdrop. And sometimes I don't even have to take a step out the door for holy thoughts to overwhelm me. A bunny rabbit hopping across my lawn (or a deer), or a beautiful sunrise are unexpected moments of God's grace. Nature can be a profound reminder of God's presence.

I remember being in grammar school in 1970 when the first Earth Day was announced to be celebrated on April 22. There is wisdom in being reminded that the planet earth is a precious gift. We come from the perspective that it is the very first story given to us from the scriptures. All of God's gifts are precious, and they need to be cared for and not taken for granted. May we be ever mindful to care for that which God has made.



Scripture Readings for May 2, 2021

+ *Acts 9:26-31*

+ *1 John 3:18-24*

+ *John 15:1-8*

PARISH NEWS



The Bread and Wine for the week April 25th - May 1st have been donated by the Emerson Family in thanksgiving for the prayers, love and support from our Holy Cross family.



Banns of Marriage - First Time

Gabriella Vasapolli & James Hershberger

Next weekend we will also be collecting for our Catholic Elementary Schools. This collection provides scholarships and program funding for the needs of students and schools.

Mother's Day Mass Remembrances



Envelopes may be placed in the collection basket. Names of loved ones will appear in the Mother's Day bulletin.

Holy Cross Book Club

- ◆ Are you struggling through a time of change?
- ◆ Are you wondering where God is in the midst of these unsettled times?
- ◆ Are you looking for some encouraging and inspiring words?

If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, come and join Holy Cross Book Club as we read and discuss **The Other Side of Chaos** by Margaret Silf.

Through readings from Scripture and personal anecdotes, we will discover a "spirituality of transition" that will help us handle life's inevitable challenges with confidence in ourselves and in God.

Book Club will meet on **Thursday evenings, May 20, 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24, from 7:00 – 8:00 PM in the atrium.**

Due to pandemic restrictions, we are limited to 15 participants (in person). If anyone would like to participate virtually via Zoom, please indicate that. (The book is available from Amazon.)

Please fill in and return to the Parish Office by May 16:

I would like to participate in Book Club _____ in person _____ via Zoom

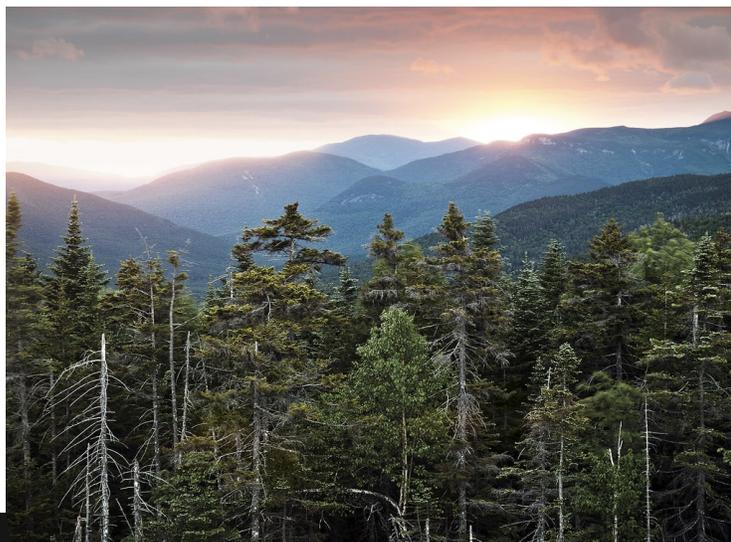
Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____



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!

PARISH NEWS

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.**

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.



LITURGY BYTES



Picking up on last week's theme about being "bored" at Mass, we should never overlook the most important facet, and that is having a deeper appreciation of **what** or, more importantly, **who** we receive at Communion. As we all know, in the Eucharist, Christ is present and by receiving, we receive Christ.

The celebration of bread and wine becomes the very means of an intimate union with Christ. In St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, we hear that the bread is an actual "sharing in the body of Christ," and the cup of wine is an actual "sharing in the blood of Christ." (1 Cor. 10:16)

To the early Christians, the Lord's Supper was not just a memorial but the very **presence** of their Lord. St. Justin Martyr tells us that the Eucharist is not "common bread and common drink" but is the "flesh and blood of that Jesus who was made flesh." These Christians were emphatic in their belief that Christ is present in the Eucharist. The second century Bishop Ignatius of Antioch goes so far as to say that the heretics are those who "do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ." While this may be a shocking statement to many Christians in our country today, historically most Christians held a high view of the Eucharist. Catholics, Eastern Orthodox and other ancient Christian traditions believe that the Eucharist is truly Jesus Christ.

So how could Church ever be boring? By attending Mass and receiving Our Lord in Holy Communion, Jesus is giving Himself to us – the greatest gift. More to come next week!

Have a blessed, safe, and healthy 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 6-8PM!

Sunday, May 2: Join us for a fun Youth Day from 1-3PM!

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 Allie Roecklein, Coordinator of Youth Ministries, at youthgroup@holycrossrc.org or call the parish office.



**Please don't forget to pick up
your pre-ordered plants the
weekend of May 1st/2nd!**

NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES



NY Project Hope Suffolk County Providers

These NY Project Hope provider agencies in Suffolk County understand what you are going through. Talking to them is free, confidential, and anonymous. Talk to someone who is trained, knowledgeable, and can connect you with other local resources.

Association for Mental Health and Wellness

(631) 471-7242 x1800 | www.mhaw.org

EAC Network

(516) 510-0282 | www.eac-network.org

Empowerment Collaborative of Long Island

(631) 913-8655 | www.empowerli.org

Hispanic Counseling Center

516-538-2613 x245 | www.hispaniccounseling.org

Long Island Coalition for the Homeless

(631) 464-4314 x116 | www.addresssthehomeless.org

OLA of Eastern Long Island

(631) 500-0837 | www.olaofeasternlongisland.org

New Horizon Counseling Center

855-818-4673 | www.nhcc.us

Youth Enrichment Services

631-481-9700 | <https://www.yesnews.org>

NEWS FROM CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Reimagine Transit



Suffolk County Mobility

How to Get Involved

We want to hear from you

Your input is important to this initiative. The County plans to engage residents, transit riders, community organizations, the business community, and elected officials, among others to inform the direction of the initiative. The County will **host virtual public events** and launch a survey effort in 2021 to gather your input and understand how best to balance different transit priorities.

Register for the upcoming Reimagine Transit **virtual community meetings**, where you can learn more about Suffolk County's initiative to improve our fixed-route bus service! This meeting is an opportunity to learn about the work the County has done so far and provide your feedback. **Your participation in this meeting will be incorporated into the final bus network design**, so please come ready to share your opinions!

Two community meetings are planned in May 2021 to share progress on the Reimagine Transit initiative, identify public priorities, and gather input regarding potential changes to the bus network. These meetings will be virtual and open to all. Both meetings will cover the same topics and are planned to offer alternative opportunities to get involved. Please register for the upcoming community meetings below:

Community Meeting

May 5, 2021

6-8PM

[Click to register](#)

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9m-FjN_5SCar_vaNTXqRxA

Community Meeting

May 21, 2021

12-2PM

[Click to register](#)

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6t85RYLBT6CYF1pfWqQVig

Information on the Public Survey will be available soon.

COMMUNITY NEWS



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
DIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOL'S

Showers of Kindness

IN HONOR OF
MOTHER'S DAY

Please join our "Showers of Kindness" in honor of Mother's Day. A collection of new baby items to be donated to the families served by The Brentwood Health Center. This center is one of 42 Health Centers run by Sun River Health on Long Island, NYC, and the Hudson Valley

Beginning the week of April 19th St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School, in partnership with Student Council, will kick off the "Showers of Kindness." Suggested items are on the list below. All items must be new and in original packaging.
No formula please.

suggested
items



- Baby Hair Conditioner
- Baby Laundry Detergent
- Baby Lotion
- Baby Shampoo
- Baby Body Wash for bath time
- Baby wipes
- Bath toys
- Bibs
- Bottles (no glass please)
- Bottle brushes
- Burp cloths
- Diaper Cream
- Diapers – all sizes
- Hats 3 – 6 months
- Hooded Towels,
- Bodysuits (3-6 months)
- Pacifiers
- Receiving blankets
- Socks (3-6 months)
- Teething toys
- Wash Cloths



Please don't forget the Moms: Fuzzy Socks (all sizes,) Lip Moisturizer, Hand lotion

St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School will be collecting these baby items
April 19th - April 30th.

All donations may be dropped off at the school's front lobby **8 AM - 2:30 PM.**

The school is located at 1170 Montauk Highway, West Islip, NY 11795

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
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 you will need your Username and Password. If you need assistance, please contact Virtus: 1-888-847-8870 or 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; amendoza-cantos@drvc.org; jwinter@drvc.org; 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

| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday, April 25th | | 1 PM |
| • BAPTISMS | | Worship Area |
| • YOUTH NIGHT | 6-8PM | Atrium |
| Monday, April 26th | | 4 - 6 PM |
| • SPECIAL NEEDS | | Atrium/Chapel |
| Tuesday, April 27th | | 10 AM |
| • IN STITCHES | | Fr. Joe Room |
| • ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS | 7PM | Fr. Joe Room |
| Thursday, April 29th | | 10 AM |
| • BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE | | Grounds |
| Saturday, May 1st | | 10 AM |
| • BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE | | Grounds |
| • HOLY HOUR | 3:45-4:45PM | Worship Area |
| • PLANT SALE PICKUP | 5PM Mass | Atrium |
| Sunday, May 2nd | | All Masses |
| • PLANT SALE PICKUP | | Atrium |
| • ANOINTING OF THE SICK | 10:30AM | Worship Area |
| • YOUTH DAY | 1-3PM | 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**.



100% of all the money raised is restricted to support the objectives, programs, and mission that serves more than 600,000 people each year. These programs include services to people in need, affordable housing for senior citizens, people with disabilities and our veterans, respect life initiatives, and formation of our priests, deacons, lay leaders, and young people. Please consider supporting the 2021 Catholic Ministries Appeal.

Every gift counts and makes a difference in the lives of others! Thank you!!

Make checks payable to:
Catholic Ministries Appeal

Parish Parish of the Holy Cross—176

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