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.



Come and pray with us!

Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 9, 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

Mrs. Michele Hahn Pastoral Associate, ext.120

Mrs. Barbara DeStefano Business Manager, ext.110 Deacon Ralph Rivera Pastoral Minister, ext.119

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

Mr. Brian Reich Director of Music Ministry Mrs. Judith Pickel

Pastoral Associate, ext.116

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

Ms. Alexandra Roecklein

Youth Minister

PASTORAL STAFF

Mrs. Jane Wirth Parish Secretary, ext.122

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

Dr. Vincent Mazurek Music Minister

Mr. Roberto Maza Mr. Vincent Matula Custodians Mrs. Mary Pannone, ext.111 Religious Education Secretary (mpannone@holycrossrc.org)

Mrs. Mary Inghilterra Weekend Sacristan

Remembering Our Sick

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

Kathy Barry
Barbara Bombace
Manuela Diaz
Jim Emerson
Jeanne Gallo
Dabbia Jablinowski

Debbie Jablinowski Gerald Losquadro Charlotte Lynch Nick Matonti

Charlotte Lynch Nick Matonti
Vince Mazurek Olivia Melia

Carole Porcelli Joseph Santamaria

Barbara Sherry
David Velkas
Judy Viskupic

Marlene Starr
Doreen Velkas
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 May 9th, 9AM Mass

Mon. Lucy Caggiano
Tue. Audrey Cronin
Wed. Denise Lamarque

Ascension Vigil Mass, Wed., May 12th, 7PM

Fiorella Padilla Hufnal (living)

Ascension Mass, Thu., May 13th, 9AM Mass

Ellen Harris (living)

Saturday, May 15th, 5PM Mass

Elisa Keena, Louis Follo, John J. Daly, Frank

DiSclafani, Gemma Jean

Sunday, May 16th, Seventh Sunday of Easter

8:00 AM People of the Parish

9:30 AM Jean Brown, Charles Vincent Dasarro,

Frank Esposito

11:30 AM Anthony DeVito Jr.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

by Father Michael

Last weekend at Mass I shared with you that I had spent a few days in Florida to visit my grandniece for the first time. She is 14 months old and is a joyful bundle of unbounded enthusiasm. I joked with everyone at Mass about how her energy level made my head spin in circles. On several occasions during my stay, as I watched my sister and niece continually care for the little one, I recalled our Lenten theme, "I give my life away." In so many ways, and on an on-going basis, this is what parents do. In particular, when a child is very young, Mom and Dad and whoever else is responsible for that life, often put their lives on hold. The needs of the child become the priority. As the child grows, certain routines develop that can bring a bit of balance to life, but still it is a full-time undertaking. We can never take for granted that it is a heroic and holy path to walk.

This weekend, in a particular way, we remember and honor all those who are mothers. For those of you who are in the midst of parenting, God bless you for the life-giving work you do. For all of us, it is an opportunity to remember with gratitude the love and life that we received from our mothers. Whether moms are alive or have returned to the Lord, we embrace the gift of life that they shared with us. We also recognize the many people we encounter in this life who offer motherly love to those who are not their own children. There are countless ways in which God's commandment of love is lived out. This day highlights the beautiful ways in which that gift touches our lives.

This weekend is the first of two weekends in which we are celebrating First Holy Communions. These are always joyful days as families come together. There is something beautiful in inviting the children to come to the altar for the fist time. We still have a few restrictions we need to work around, but that does not stop the power of the Spirit in allowing it to be a joyful day.

There are many people who are "chomping at the bit" to return to enjoying life fully. On my trip to Florida, every seat was taken on both flights. There are lots of folks who are not reluctant to fly. Last week I advertised the details for the Travel Club's trip to New Hampshire in July. Much to my amazement and delight, we had 32 people sign up on Monday. As I write this article there are still a few seats available, but we will likely hit our limit quickly. For many, this trip is an opportunity to take a giant step forward in enjoying life. Wherever you are in the journey, keep moving forward at your own pace and allow the Lord to be by your side.

This week we celebrate Ascension Thursday. In addition to the daily morning Mass, there is a vigil on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Have a great week.

PARISH NEWS



The Ascension of the Lord Masses will be held

Wed., May 12th, at 7 PM &
Thu., May 13th, at 9 AM

The Parish Office is closed on Thursday for the Holy Day.



Banns of Marriage - Third Time

Gabriella Vasapolli & James Hershberger

Scripture Readings for May 16, 2021



- + Acts 1:15-17, 20-26
- + 1 John 4:11-16
- + John 17:11-19

Celebrants for Next Weekend's Masses May 15th/16th



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

PARISH OUTREACH

Community Vegetable Garden

Did you know that working in a garden can boost your mood and your immune system? There are many health benefits associated with gardening. It can lower your blood pressure levels, strengthen your bones and relieve chronic pain, just to name a few.

Our very own **Community Vegetable Garden** is a perfect place to start for you to find these health benefits while helping provide fresh, wholesome vegetables for those seeking assistance from Outreach. Everyone's help is welcome to get us off to a great start! Please join us as we prepare the garden for planting, enjoy fellowship with other parishioners, and experience the joy of gardening.

We will be meeting **Saturday**, **May 15**th, for our Garden clean-up at **8AM**. Please bring gloves, rakes, etc., if you have them. We look forward to you joining our "Garden party"! For more information, please call JoEllen at 631-360-1373.



PARISH OUTREACH

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tips from the latest research



an education program presented by the alzheimer's association

For centuries, we've known that the health of the brain and the body are connected. But now, science is able to provide insights into how to make lifestyle choices that may help you keep your brain and body healthy as you age. Join us to learn about research in the areas of diet and nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement, and use hands-on tools to help you incorporate these recommendations into a plan for healthy aging. For more information or to register, call 800.272.3900.

Date: Tuesday, May 25, 2021 Time: 7 - 8 p.m.

Join us using a computer or telephone.

In partnership with The Parish of Holy Cross

To register call 800.272.3900 or call Parish Outreach for the link.

This activity is funded in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health

PARISH OUTREACH

Please join Outreach for our

Mother's Day Drive

on Saturday, May 8th, and Sunday, May 9th, at all Masses to benefit the women of



We will be collecting the following:

Shampoo Body Lotion
Makeup Makeup Bags
Small Makeup Mirror
Perfume/Body Spray Candles
Women's Personal Hygiene Items

Please drop off all items in the bins (marked Mother's Day Drive) located in the Atrium of the Church no later than May 10th.

Thank you for your support!

Happy Mother's Day!

LITURGY BYTES

The Easter Candle

Candles were used at liturgy by the early Christians, which is probably no surprise to us. They used them for practical purposes, especially when praying in the catacombs. The light coming from the candles quickly became symbolic.



The candlelit ceremonies reminded Christians of Jesus' words in the Gospel of John: "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12) For this reason, candles became a central part of Christian worship, and we associated them with the light of Christ.

In addition to using multiple candles for illumination, there began a tradition where a single candle was used as a direct symbol of Jesus. The most likely origin of what we know as the Easter candle, is derived from the Lucernarium, the evening office with which early Christians began the vigil for every Sunday and especially for Easter. This rite was probably inspired by the Jewish custom of lighting a lamp at the conclusion of the Sabbath. It certainly seems that the rite has roots in the beginning of Christianity. In the Lucernarium rite, the light to dispel the darkness of night was offered to Christ as the splendor of the Father. This ritual was carried out with greater solemnity at the Easter Vigil. Over time the Easter candle, also known to us as the Paschal candle, was given greater prominence and was decorated to further expound on the Paschal mystery.

Other interesting points about the wax candle include the light, the flame, the cross, the alpha and omega, the year and grains of incense.

- a) The pure wax extracted by bees from flowers symbolizes the pure flesh of Christ received from Mother Mary; b) the wick signifies the soul of Christ; c) and the flame represents His divinity.
- The light The Roman Missal summarizes this symbolism with these words: "May the light of Christ rising in glory dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds." This connects the Easter candle to Jesus, who is the light of the world, as we read in John's Gospel.

Continued on next page

LITURGY BYTES continued

- The flame is reminiscent of the pillar of fire that led the people of Israel and protected them as they escaped the slavery of the Egyptians. The Easter Proclamation, known as the Exsultet and sung at the Easter Vigil, refers to this symbolism when we hear these words: "This is the night that with a pillar of fire banished the darkness of sin."
- The cross is the supreme symbol of Jesus and the instrument through which he saved the world from sin and death.
- Alpha and Omega It is common in Christian art to find two Greek letters, the alpha and omega, which stand for the beginning and the end. In the book of Revelation, Jesus says: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty, I will give water without price from the fountain of the water of life. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son." (Revelation 21:6-7)
- Year As the priest traces the year on the Easter candle, he prays: "All time belongs to him, and all the ages." This reminds us that God is here with us today and is constantly guiding all creation to himself.
- Grains of incense Five grains of incense are inserted into the candle on top of the cross, symbolizing the five "holy and glorious wounds" of Jesus Christ.
- This beautiful candle is placed in the Sanctuary during the Easter season, and at celebrations of the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, as well as at funerals. As the great 50 days are ending, check out our beautiful Paschal/Easter candle in the worship space the next time you come to Mass.

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

YOUTH MINISTRY

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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, May 16: Join us for a fun Youth Night 6-8PM!

Sunday, May 23: Another fun Youth Night 6-8PM. Come join us!

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.

Thank you to all who supported our Spring Plant Sale!



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We Remember our Mothers on this Special Day!



MASS REMEMBRANCES IN HONOR OF...

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ALL THE KEENA, BURTON &

CANGIANO MOMS

MARY MAUREEN SULLIVAN

PAULA TOMASINO MARY E. KNIPPER ALICIA RAPLEE

MARGARET SCAPARRO

ANNE BORRUSO
ROBERTA LAMB
PATRICIA O'CONNOR
MIRYAM BALLESTEROS

LILIANA DONLON
ELSA ABREU
ROSALINA SIMOES
CECILIA MARTINS
DOROTHY PADRONE
ELIZABETH SULLIVAN
GARCIA LADIES

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DONNA D'ESPOSITO

CAROLYN SMITH WHELAN

GAIL GARCIA

CATHERINE GARCIA TINA PAOLANTONIO PATRICIA NESFIELD SUSAN NECROTO
JENNIFER NESFIELD
MARIANNE YAGER
ANN YAGER
STEPHANIE WHELAN
ROBIN LACAGNINA
ANGIE GALLO
BRIDGETTE VOLPI
CASEY SCHULTZ

ANN MARIE KALISKY JEANNETTE CAPONEGRO

MARY E. SCHULTZ

MASS REMEMBRANCES IN MEMORY OF...

ELIZABETH SHEA AGNES CAIN FLO CANGELERI ANN KEENA LUCY FOLLO

NANCY GALLAGHER

JUDY KEENA

ISABELLA BURTON SMITH

MARIE GUARINO GWYNETH MORRIS NELL CANGIANO

ALL THE KEENA, FOLLO,

BURTON & CANGIANO MOTHERS

ANNE MASANGYA
CARMELA CELAURO
CATHERINE SOTTUNG
EILEEN DUMINUCO
MARY MAGGIO
ANNA LANDINI
ROSE CARDONE
IDA KOTARSKI

ANGELINA FRANGOSIE

ROSE GICOLA

IRENE "HONEY" KUCZWAJ

VIRGINIA MAKOWSKI

Laura Izzo Luisa Zezima ANNA LIPNICKI
JOAN O'HANLON
LUCY V. MAROTTA
LUCY M. GUIFFRE
CALOGERA MAROTTA

ANN MURPHY

MARGARET DORNEY MAUREEN KELLY BARBARA MARTIN CATHERINE GARRETT

ANNA **M**ULA

CALOGERA DIROSA
JOSEPHINE DIROSA
MARY M. BISSELL
ROSE PACIELLO
VIRGINIA FORTUNATO

Anna Bell

HEDWIG LEWANDOWSKI
CAROLINE PENNACCHIA

IDA CHAPMAN
DOROTHY KOHLER
THERESA CARACCIOLO
ADA CANALINI

GLORIA POSIMATO ROSE GATTO

JOSEPHINE D'ESPOSITO MARGARET MAHER

PATRICIA SCHUSSLER

JAYNE KIELY
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TERESA LAMB LAURA MCQUADE

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STASIA EGAN

HELENA CORCORAN
JEANETTE FOY
EVELYN KUST

ANGELINE WINTERS STELLA GUGALA EDITH HORNBERGER

MARYANN DILLON

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NETTIE PASQUA

JOSEPHINE SCHUHRIEMEN HELEN McCulloch CATHERINE HENRY

BRIDGET MAHONEY CLARA FERONY

BERTHA TEPEDINO

NAN HOFY

IRENE VASILUTH

HILDEGARD FERRANDINO

MARY ITALIANO Bertha Perrino GRACE PERSICH

ELIZABETH MULDERIG JANE McGOWAN **A**DELINA BONAVERO

FRANCES KELLY **PATRICIA CLARKE** MARION BUDREO ANN LECHNER ANN BRENNAN Rose Marinelli

NORA TAVIS NANCY GIAMBALVO

LUCIA CHIRAFISI **CAROLYN BECCARELLI**

MARIE PUPPA

MARGARET LEPTICH LOUISE HARTNAGLE JOAN O'CLARE Angela Sullivan **BLANCA FORERO MURPHY LADIES** FRANCES MONACO

THOMASSINA COLLURA GLORIA DANDREA

GAETANA GROBLUSKI

Anna Testa **LUCILLE DEVITO** IRENE PERSIANI Rose Cadolino **HELEN SACCO** ANNE MATTERA **EMMA EMERSON** ANNE CALIA

GERAL DINE CAMMARATA CAROLINA FRANTELLIZZI

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May 6, 2021

Dear Nurses of Long Island:

In this last year, no one was left unaffected by the trials and tribulations of the COVID-19 pandemic, but nurses, in a most profound way, were at the frontline from the very beginning, have been there during the darkest hours, and will be there to the very end. I am most grateful for the dedication of every nurse in our Diocese of Rockville Centre who, called to duty in these unprecedented times, demonstrated the grace, strength, and perseverance that epitomizes the Nursing profession and our Christian duty to care for the sick and suffering.

But it is more than just the last year. I thank every one of you in our hospitals, nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, home care environments, hospices, primary care and specialty clinics, schools, and most especially in our Catholic Health system, for giving selflessly, throughout your careers, and bringing Christ's compassion and consolation to so many. I thank you for seeing the beauty and dignity of the human person in every patient you serve.

In the last year, I know how so many of you, painfully aware of the dangers you faced with an unknown infection, bravely donned full body Personal Protective Equipment to minister to the sick and dying in our hospitals, nursing homes and private residences. But I also know of the less-chronicled times you have been away from your own families for extended shifts during a snowstorm or hurricane, when you have brought cheer with a small token of love for a lonesome patient, when you have listened or prayed with a family member, and when you have rejoiced over the news of a cure or recovery. At the same time, you have been there to comfort, console, and accompany many patients and their families through difficult times. You have been at the foot of the Cross.

It is for these qualities of character, this deep commitment, and these sacrifices whether small or heroic, that we know those who enter the field of Nursing have a special vocation: to bring Christ to the bedside, to heal the wounds of the body, and more importantly, those of the soul.

And so, as we mark National Nurses Week, it is with the sincerest gratitude that I thank you for all you do to serve God's people here on Long Island, for bearing witness to His call to love our neighbor: "For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Gal 5:14). Nursing, in its purest form, manifests this truth articulated by Pope Benedict XVI in *Caritas in Veritate*: "everything has its origin in God's love, everything is shaped by it, everything is directed towards it. Love is God's greatest gift to humanity; it is his promise and our hope."

May God bless you in your dedicated work and in your heroic sacrifices and charity.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Joh O. Banen Most Reverend John O. Barres

Bishop of Rockville Centre

ONLY 2 WEEKENDS LEFT!

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 | Spring Cash Fling |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Name _ | | Name |
| Address | | Address |
| Town | | Town |
| | | — : |
| | | |
| Nama | Spring Cash Fling | Spring Cash Fling |
| Name _ | | Name |
| Name Address | | Nome |
| Address | | Name |

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

Saturday, May 8th 10 AM & 1 PM

• 1ST HOLY COMMUNIONS Worship Area

Tuesday, May 11th 10 AM

• IN STITCHES Fr. Joe Room

• 1ST COMMUNION PRACTICE 5:30-8PM Wor. Ar./Atr.

Wednesday, May 12th 7 PM

• ASCENSION VIGIL MASS Worship Area

Thursday, May 13th 9 AM

• ASCENSION MASS Worship Area

(The Parish Office is closed for the Holy Day.)

Saturday, May 15th 8 AM

• COMM. VEGETABLE GDN. CLEANUP Veg. Gdn.

• 1ST HOLY COMMUNIONS 10AM & 12PM Wor. Ar.

Sunday, May 16th 1 PM

• BAPTISMS Worship Area

• YOUTH NIGHT 6-8PM Atrium

REMINDERS

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.

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.

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 we will also be collecting for our **Renovations and Major Repairs** fund. Thank you for your continuous support of this parish collection!

Next week our special collection supports the **Catholic Communications Campaign.** This campaign connects people with Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and developing countries using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half of the money collected remains here in the Diocese of Rockville Centre to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/ccc.

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